

Arthur Meall

18 Bowrie St. E.C.

# THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXIV.—NEW SERIES, No. 960.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1864.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED .. 5d.  
STAMPED ..... 6d.

**PARIS CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL,**  
23, RUE ROYALE, NEAR THE MADELEINE.  
Divine Service, Lord's Day, 11 a.m., and 7.30 p.m.  
Tuesday Evenings at 7.30 p.m.  
DONATIONS and SUBSCRIPTIONS received by  
ROBERT ASHTON, Secretary.  
Congregational Library.

## THANKSGIVING SERVICES at MILE-END NEW TOWN CHAPEL.

In consequence of the cost of rebuilding the Chapel, &c., having been met, and FRIDAY, 25th March, 1864, being the Second Anniversary of the Opening of the Chapel, A COMMUNION SERVICE will be held (D.V.) at Seven p.m. An Address will be delivered to the Church by the Rev. S. McALL, President of Hackney College.

TWO SERMONS will be preached on LORD'S DAY, 27th March: that in the Morning by the Rev. WM. TYLER, Pastor of the Church; and that in the evening by the Rev. A. TIDMAN, D.D., Foreign Secretary of the London Missionary Society. Divine Service to commence at 10.45 in the morning, and 6.30 in the evening.

Tea will be served on TUESDAY, the 29th, in the School-house, at 5.30 p.m.; after which the Rev. NEWMAN HALL, LL.B., will preach. Service to commence at 7 p.m.

Thank Offerings will be made at each Service, to be given to the funds of the London Hospital; that most valuable institution being in debt to the amount of 4,000*l.*, and the Committee having resolved to increase its accommodation by an outlay of 25,000*l.*

Subscriptions will be thankfully received at the Hospital by W. J. NIXON, Esq., the Secretary.

## POSTPONED FROM 5th and 6th to 19th and 20th APRIL. THIRD NATIONAL REFORM CONFERENCE.

The Executive for promoting a National Reform Movement have fixed upon holding a CONFERENCE in the FREE-TRADE HALL, Manchester, on TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, April 19th and 20th, 1864.

The Executive meet every Monday and Thursday, from Two to Six p.m., at the White Horse Hotel, Boar-lane, Leeds.

The object of the Conference is—1st. To consider the present position of the Reform Cause; and 2nd. Adopt such course of action as may best promote the formation of a National Reform League, and decide upon future Conferences at Birmingham, Bristol, Newcastle, Sheffield, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool, &c., &c.

Contributions toward expenses may be forwarded to Mr. Wm. Ellis, Rock View, Armley, Leeds.

GEORGE WILSON, Chairman,  
WM. ELLIS, Chairman and Treasurer,  
WM. HICKES, Secretary, 19, Dickinson's-yard,  
Leeds, March 1st, 1864.

## THE ASYLUM for IDIOTS, EARLSWOOD, REDHILL, SURREY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.  
Under the immediate patronage of Her Most Gracious Majesty the QUEEN and His Royal Highness the PRINCE of WALES.

The ANNUAL GENERAL COURT and SPRING ELECTION of this Charity will be held on THURSDAY, April 28th, at the LONDON TAVERN, BISHOPSGATE-STREET, to receive the Reports Domestic and Financial, to Appoint the Officers for the ensuing year, and to ELECT THIRTY APPLICANTS, viz., FIVE for LIFE, and TWENTY-FIVE for the ORDINARY PERIOD of FIVE YEARS, from the list of approved candidates.

Mr. Alderman ABBISS (Treasurer) in the chair.  
The meeting will commence at Eleven o'clock, the poll at Twelve, and close at Two o'clock precisely.

Contributions are earnestly solicited. Pamphlets illustrating the working of the Charity, and cards to view the Asylum, may be had gratuitously on application at the office.

An annual subscriber has one vote for half a guinea, and an additional vote for every additional half-guinea. A life subscriber has one vote for life for five guineas, and an additional vote for life for every additional five guineas.

JOHN CONOLLY, M.D., D.C.L., Hon. Secretary.

WILLIAM NICHOLAS, Secretary.

Cheques and Post Office orders should be made payable to Mr. William Nicholas.

Office, 29, Poultry, E.C.

## BOARD and LODGING in a DISSIDENT MINISTER'S FAMILY.

Young Men engaged in professional or mercantile duties during the day may find a comfortable and cheerful home in the house of the

Rev. Dr. Hewlett, 2, Tredegar-square, Bow-road, E. Terms moderate. References exchanged. Access to a good Library.

## FORSYTH'S TEMPERANCE HOTELS.—

FORSYTH'S "COBDEN" HOTEL, 87, ARGYLE-STREET, GLASGOW, Central, Elegantly Furnished, Commodious, and Perfectly Ventilated. Also FORSYTH'S HOTEL, ABERDEEN.

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Now Enlarged. Open, Central, and Quiet. Private

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Terms Moderate.

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the best quality, at prices usually charged for inferior.

Every description of Printing at the lowest rates. Samples and

prices on application. ASH & FLINT, 49, Fleet-street, City,

E.C., and opposite the Railway Stations, London-bridge, S.E.

## HOSPITAL for SICK CHILDREN, 49, GREAT ORMOND-STREET, W.C.

This Hospital is not Endowed, but is wholly dependent on Voluntary Contributions for support.

FUNDS are urgently needed.

F. H. DICKINSON, Chairman.

BANKERS: Williams, Deacon, and Co.; Messrs. Hoare; Messrs. Herries.

## HOSPITAL for SICK CHILDREN, 49, GREAT ORMOND-STREET, W.C.

The TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER on behalf of this Institution will take place at the ALBION TAVERN, ALDERSGATE-STREET, on WEDNESDAY, April 13th, when GEORGE J. GOSCHEN, Esq., M.P., has kindly consented to take the Chair.

The first list of Stewards will shortly be published, other names will be thankfully received.

The expense to each steward is limited to the price of the Dinner Ticket—One Guinea.

SAMUEL WHITFORD, Secretary.

March, 1864.

## THE FRIENDS of a YOUNG LADY (a

Dissenter), in her Eighteenth Year, who has received a liberal education at one of the first Seminaries in London, are DESIROUS of PLACING her in a highly-respectable SCHOOL at the Sea-side, as a JUNIOR TEACHER. She is competent to instruct in English, French, Music and Drawing. As the object they have in view is not remuneration so much as a comfortable home, a moderate salary would be required.

Address, stating all particulars, to G. F., 35, Godalming, Surrey.

## A WHOLESALE and RETAIL DRUGGIST is in WANT of a YOUNG MAN who

would be required to take short journeys, and attend to the retail when at home.

Apply to William Merry, Chemist, Ilkeston.

## TO BAKERS and CONFECTIONERS.—

To be DISPOSED of at LADY-DAY next, a READY-MONEY BUSINESS.

Apply to Wm. Lovelock, Speenhamland, Newbury, Berks.

## WANTED, IMMEDIATELY, an Active, Intelligent YOUTH, as an APPRENTICE to the

Wholesale and Retail WOOLLEN and LINEN DRAPERY BUSINESSES.

Apply to John Goosey, Kettering.

## THE REV. WILLIAM KIRKUS, LL.B., RECEIVES a FEW PUPILS to BOARD and

EDUCATE, or to Prepare for University Examinations.

For further particulars, apply to the Rev. W. Kirkus, St. Thomas's-square, Hackney.

## BOARDING SCHOOL for TRADESMEN'S SONS, ROCHFORD, ESSEX.

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Terms, 20*l.* per annum. Circulars at Messrs. Mead and Powell's, 73, Cheapside.

N.B. Preparatory Department at Forest-hill.

## HADDO-TERRACE SCHOOL, SCARBOROUGH.

PRINCIPAL—The Rev. G. D. BARTLET, M.A.

Assisted by able Resident Masters.

Easter Term begins 24th March.

Reference is allowed to the Revs. R. Bruce, M.A., Huddersfield; J. Parsons, York; and R. Bagnall, Scarborough.

## COMMERCIAL SCHOOL, CRANFORD HALL, near HOUNSLOW, is conducted with special

regard to the requirements of the Sons of respectable Tradesmen and Farmers.

Mr. VERNEY is assisted by experienced resident Teachers—English and Foreign. The Pupils are carefully trained in good habits, and fitted for active Business Pursuits. The premises are extensive, and contain every convenience; the situation is high and healthy; the food is of the best description and unlimited; and the terms are moderate.

A Prospectus forwarded upon application; and Pupils admitted at any time.

## HOWARD HOUSE SCHOOL, THAME, near OXFORD.

Conducted by Mr. J. MARSH,

Assisted by English and French Resident Masters.

The special aim of this School is to prepare Youths for Commercial pursuits; and the great success which has attended Mr. Marsh's efforts in Thame for twenty-two years is the best proof of the efficiency of the system pursued. No pains are spared to make every Pupil write a good hand, understand Arithmetic and Mental Arithmetic. The best specimens of Writing and Drawing in the Great Exhibition of 1851 were by Pupils from this School, and attention is requested to the specimens of Book-keeping and Drawing now exhibiting at the Crystal Palace.

\* References to the Rev. C. Vince, Birmingham; the Rev. I. Doxsey, Edmonton; W. Johnson, Esq., Banbury; and Parents in all the midland counties.

Terms low and inclusive. Prospectus, with sketch of Premises, on application.

## NOTICE OF REMOVAL.—Messrs. ALEX

and JONES, Surgeon-Dentists, have REMOVED their practice to 53, BROOK-STREET, GROSVENOR-SQUARE, in consequence of their premises, 31, New Bridge-street, being required by the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway.

## HARMONIUMS for CHAPELS, SCHOOLS, and PRIVATE USE.—A well-assorted Stock of NEW and SECOND-HAND HARMONIUMS, by KELLY, ALEXANDER, &c., at very low prices, always on SALE, at G. CARR'S First-floor, 77, Cheapside, E.C.

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MANAGER—C. J. Braine, Esq.

The Directors are prepared to issue Debentures for one, three, and five years, at 5, 5½, and 6 per cent. respectively; they are also prepared to Invest Money on Mortgage in Ceylon and Mauritius, either with or without the guarantee of the Company, as may be arranged.

Applications for particulars to be made at the Offices of the Company, No. 12, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.

(By order) JOHN ANDERSON, Secretary.

## TO LIFE ASSURERS. ATLAS FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

Established 1808.

92, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON.

WILLIAM GEORGE PRESCOTT, Esq., Chairman.

THOMAS CHAPMAN, Esq., F.R.S., Deputy Chairman.

The next valuation for Bonus on Life Policies will be made up to Christmas next, and Insurances effected prior to that date will participate therein.

Large Bonuses are quinquennially declared, and may be applied, either—

In the reduction of the Annual Premium.

Or, in Adding to the Sum Assured.

Or, in Payment of a Sum in Money.

THE ANNUAL INCOME is upwards of £180,000.

THE ACCUMULATED FUND upwards of £1,650,000.

CHARLES ANSELL, Esq., F.R.S., Actuary.

Fire Insurances effected as usual, at the lowest rates.

RICHARD RAY, Esq., Secretary.

## THE LANCASHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

CAPITAL, £2,000,000.

INVESTED FUNDS, £266,418 13s. 7d.

ANNUAL INCOME from PREMIUMS (FIRE and LIFE) and INTEREST, £95,593.

## OFFICES OF THE COMPANY.

MANCHESTER: EXCHANGE-STREET, ST. ANN SQUARE.

LONDON: 10, CORNHILL, E.C.

LIVERPOOL: 7, WATER STREET.

GLASGOW: 4, SOUTH HANOVER-STREET.

BIRMINGHAM: 17, BENNETT'S-HILL.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Company was held on 3rd MARCH, 1864, and copies of the Directors' Report and Balance Sheet may be obtained at any of the Offices of the Company.

The Directors of the Lancashire have always been content to let the figures in their annual balance sheets prove the sound financial position of the Company, but they think it due to their numerous shareholders and fire and life insurers, to draw attention to the complimentary remarks of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, made in the House of Commons, on 7th March, 1864. (See "Times" of 8th March.)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in moving the adoption of the "Government Annuities Bill," said:—

"I wish to shew the manner in which business is transacted by offices of the highest class, and the reserve they think it necessary to hold in order to give themselves a secure position. I am only going to state two or three cases. Hon. members will bear me out when I say that you know a good deal about the position of an insurance society when you get three things—first of all, its date; secondly, its income from premiums; and thirdly, its accumulations. (Hear, hear.) From the relation of these three to one another you know pretty clearly the state of any office."

The Chancellor then gave the figures connected with four offices of the "highest class," these four being—

The Standard (established 1825); the University (established 1825); the London and Provincial Law (established 1846); and the Lancashire (established 1852).

The remarks of the Chancellor, in speaking of the LANCASHIRE, were as follows:—

"I take another, younger still—the Lancashire Society, founded in 1852. Its premium income is 23,500*l.*; its accumulations 85,000*l.*, or about four years' premium income.

believe, relatively to its age, only twelve years, a very satisfactory and satisfactory accumulation."

The Directors have pleasure in stating that the life accumulations amounted on 31st December, 1863, to 94,997 7*l.* 6*d.*

Life and Fire Insurances transacted at home and in foreign countries. Proposals and Prospectuses may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or from any of its Agents.

GEORGE STEWART, General Manager.

B. FERGUSON OLIVER, London Secretary.

10, Cornhill, E.C.





# BRITON MEDICAL and GENERAL LIFE ASSOCIATION.

OFFICES—429, STRAND.

DIRECTORS.

Chairman of the Board—GEORGE H. BARLOW, M.D.  
Deputy Chairman—FRANCIS WEBB, Esq.

By the peculiarly-equitable manner of dividing the profits, the policies issued by this Association become payable during the lifetime of the person assured without extra premium. After having been in force a period of five years, all policies are absolutely indefeasible and indisputable.

Declined and diseased lives assured at equitable rates.

NEW BUSINESS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DEC., 1863.

Number of Policies.	Amount Proposed.	Number of Policies.	Amount Assured.	Annual Premiums.
3,147	£746,425	2,323	£567,453	£18,372 2s.

Capital Stock, £200,000. Annual Income, £130,000.

A Reversionary Bonus of 40 per cent. on the premiums for the past three years has just been declared.

Qualified medical attendants who are named by proposers to this Association are consulted as the medical advisers of the Directors, by whom all medical fees are discharged.

Every description of Life Assurance transacted; terms for which, with detailed Prospectus and every information, may be had on application to

JOHN MESSENT, F.R.S., Secretary.

Applications for Agencies are invited.

## THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY

has much satisfaction in announcing to the public that the effort which was made (so far as its proprietors were concerned) by only one individual holding fifteen Shares, to restrain its recent liberality on occasion of the late fearful explosion at Liverpool, has entirely and completely failed, the Vice-Chancellor declaring that as the plaintiff did not come into court for the benefit of the company the bill must be dismissed with costs.

The course pursued by this office received in three days the approval of proprietors holding nearly 40,000 Shares, irrespective of upwards of 20,000 held by the Directors themselves—making a total of 60,000 out of 94,000 issued. It is, therefore, evident that the vast majority, if not almost all without exception, of the holders of the remaining 34,000 Shares would have signified a like acquiescence if time had afforded opportunity for the act.

The public may now, therefore, be assured of the continuance of the same principle of liberality which has ever distinguished this office, supported as it is by the decision of the Vice-Chancellor, and backed by the prompt and cordial acquiescence of its Shareholders.

The Royal Insurance Company thankfully acknowledges the generous assistance given in the shape of affidavits from the representatives of the Sun, Phoenix, Royal Exchange, and Alliance, attesting their concurrence in the course taken by the Royal in the ex-gratia payment of the losses sustained—these great companies having themselves acted in the like liberal spirit.

PERCY M. DOVE Manager.

JOHN B. JOHNSTON, Secretary of the London Board.  
29, Lombard-street, London, E.C.

## WINES.

PURE AND CHEAP.

## THE IMPERIAL WINE COMPANY,

Consisting of leading Growers of Clarets, Ports, Sherries, &c., imports the choicest Wines, and sells to the Public at Reasonable Prices.

CELLARS—MAYLEBONE COURT HOUSE, W.

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EXPORT and BOTTLING VAULTS—15, JOHN-STREET, CRUTCHED FRIARS, E.C., LONDON.

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VERSUS COGNAC BRANDY.

This celebrated old IRISH WHISKY rivals the finest French brandy. It is pure, mild, mellow, delicious, and very wholesome. Sold in bottles, 3s. 6d. each, at most of the respectable retail houses in London; by the appointed agents in the principal towns in England; or wholesale at 8, Great Windmill-street, Haymarket, W. Observe the red seal, pink label and cork, branded "Kinahan's LL Whisky."

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A VARIETY OF NEW DESIGNS

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SILVER PLATE AND SILVER GILT DINNER SERVICES

FOR THE SEASON 1864.

MAY BE SEEN AT

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ESTABLISHED A.D. 1810.

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COALS.—Best Sunderland, 25s.; Newcastle or Hartlepool, 24s.; best Silkestone, 22s.; Clay Cross, 22s. and 20s.; Coke, per chaldron, 14s.

B. HIBBERDINE, Sussex and Union Wharfs, Regent's park; Chief Offices: 169 and 266, Tottenham-court-road.

COALS.—Best Coals only.—GEO. J. COCKERELL and Co.'s price is now 26s. per ton cash for the BEST SCREENED COALS, as supplied by them to her Majesty and H. R. H. the Prince of Wales—13, Cornhill, E.C.; Purfleet-wharf, Earl-street, Blackfriars, E.C.; Eaton-wharf, Grosvenor-canal, Pimlico, S.W.; and Sunderland-wharf, Peckham, S.E.

COALS.—By SCREW STEAMERS, and RAILWAY.—HIGBURY and KINGSLAND COAL DEPOTS.—No Travellers or Agents employed.—LEA and CO.'S price for HETTON, HASWELL, and LAMTON WALLSEND, the best House Coal in the world, direct from the Collieries by screw steamers, is 25s. per ton: Hartlepool, 24s.; best small, 13s.; Tanfield, for Smith's, 20s.; Inland, by Railway:—Silkestone, first-class, 22s.; second-class, 21s.; Clay Cross, 22s. and 20s.; Barnsley, 19s.; Hartley, 18s. Coke, 14s. Net cash. Delivered, screened, to any part of London. All orders direct to LEA and CO.'S, Chief Offices, North London Railway Stations, Highbury, Islington, or Kingsland.

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## BLACK TEAS.

Of which Dr. Hassall says, "I find the black mixed teas to be perfectly genuine, and selected from the choicest kinds."

6lb. tin canisters sent to any railway-station carriage free. Prices 3s. 8d. and 4s. 8d. per lb. 1 lb. samples may be had of the patentees, FRANKS, SON, and CO., 43, Queen-street, Cannon-street West.



## HORNIMAN'S PURE TEA

It is CHOICE and STRONG, BECAUSE it consists of most valuable growths that are full of rich essential properties.

It is MODERATE in PRICE, BECAUSE it is supplied direct from the importers to the consumers by Agents.

It is WHOLESOME to use, BECAUSE the leaf is not faced with the usual powdered mineral colours.

These COMBINED ADVANTAGES have secured for this Tea a general preference. It is sold in sealed packets, with the price printed on each, and signed—

Horniman & Co.

Homoeopathic Practitioners, and the Medical Profession generally, recommend Cocoa as being the most healthful of all beverages. When the doctrine of Homoeopathy was first introduced into this country, there were to be obtained no preparations of Cocoa either attractive to the taste or acceptable to the stomach; the nut was either supplied in its crude state or so unskillfully manufactured as to obtain little notice.

J. Epps, of London, Homoeopathic Chemist, was induced, in the year 1839, to turn his attention to this subject, and at length succeeded, with the assistance of elaborate machinery, in being the first to produce an article PURE in its composition, and so refined by the perfect trituration it receives in the process it passes through, as to be most acceptable to the delicate stomach. For general use,

## E P P S ' S C O C O A

is distinguished as an

INVIGORATING, GRATEFUL, BREAKFAST BEVERAGE.

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DELICIOUS AROMA.

Dr. Hassall, in his work, "Adulterations of Food," says:—Cocoa contains a great variety of important nutritive principles; every ingredient necessary to the growth and sustenance of the body." Again: "As a nutritive, cocoa stands very much higher than either coffee or tea."

Directions:—Two teaspoonfuls of the powder in a breakfast cup, filled up with boiling water or milk.

Secured in tin-lined  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb., and 1 lb. packets, labelled, and sold at 1s. 6d. per lb. by Grocers, Confectioners, and Chemists.

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Warranted First-class.

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Sews from two ordinary Spools, requires no re-winding, finishes its work where it stops, and the seam, if cut at every inch, will not rip. It is eminently adapted for Family Sewing, and is so easily managed that a child can work it with facility. It will Hem, Fell, Stitch, Gather, Quilt, and Embroider in a very superior manner, and with the most wonderful rapidity.

Price, complete, from Six Guineas.

WHIGHT and MANN, 143, HOLBORN BARS, LONDON. Manufactory: Gipping Works, Ipswich.

## P O L Y T E C H N I C .

Patron: His Royal Highness the Prince of WALES.

Great preparations are being made for the Easter Holidays. The pretty Fairy Tale of "The Beauty and the Beast," includes all the optical contrivances for which the Institution is celebrated; also Three Grand Spectral or Ghost Scenes (Pepper and Dirocks' joint inventions) and the illuminated and chromatic fountain. Gaston Murray, Esq., tells the Story, The Music by Mr. E. Frewin, and select band. Lecture, by Professor J. H. Pepper, entitled, "Burning to Death and Saving from Death," in which a young lady clothed in incombustible muslin walks through the flames. Recent Discoveries in Electricity, by J. L. King, Esq. Last week of the Chinese Fireworks. Open, Twelve till Five and Seven till Ten o'clock.

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LADIES and the Public, previous to purchasing, are respectfully invited to inspect our Stock, consisting of large assortments of the latest Novelties in Dress, of British and Foreign manufacture:—

RICH, DURABLE, and CHEAP DRESS SILKS, MILLINERY SILKS, TERRY VELVETS and SATINS. All the Latest Styles in JACKETS and MANTLES, PAISLEY and SPRING SHAWLS.

A great variety of EMBROIDERED and BRAIDED MADE-UP DRESSES.

NEW POPLINS, in all the choice colours, from 10s. 9d. the Dress of 12 yards.

FRENCH LLAMAS, PLAIN and CHECKED ALPACAS, MOHAIRS, CHALLIES, &c.

FRENCH and SWISS CAMBRICS at old prices; the newest styles in SKIRTINGS from 4s. 11d.

RIBBONS, GLOVES, HOSIERY, TRIMMINGS, HABERDASHERY, PARASOLS, TIES, &c.

FAMILY and COMPLIMENTARY MOURNING.

DRAPERS, MILLINERS, and DRESSMAKERS supplied with cut lengths at trade price.

MATCHING ORDERS carefully and promptly attended to. PATTERNS POST FREE.

Close on Saturdays at Five o'clock.

JAMES SPENCE and Co., WHOLESALE AND RETAIL SILK MERCERS, DRAPERS, &c., 77 and 78, St. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.

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BROWN AND POLSON'S

## PATENT CORN FLOUR.

Packets, 8d.; Tins, 1s.

FOR PUDDINGS, CUSTARDS, BLANCMANGES.

It is inexpensive, very easily prepared, and a Luxury for all Seasons.

FOR BREAKFASTS AND SUPPERS

It requires simply to be boiled with milk for five minutes, and taken with sugar. Being very wholesome and of easy digestibility, it is a favourite

DIET FOR CHILDREN,

And in the culinary art is invaluable to thicken Soups, Sauces, Beef-tea, &c. Patent Corn Flour is preferred for all purposes where the best Arrowroot is applicable, and is prepared in the same manner.

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Adopted by Her Majesty's Government for the Military Stations.

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The original Manufacturers, and holders of the 1862 Prize Medal, caution the public against any spurious imitations. Their label is on all Packets and Boxes.

Sold by all Dealers throughout the Kingdom. Wholesale and for exportation at the Works, Upper Marsh, Lambeth, London, S., where also may be obtained their celebrated United Service Soap Tablets.

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# THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXIV.—NEW SERIES, No. 960.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1864.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED .. 5d.  
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## Eccliaetical Affairs.

### LAST WEDNESDAY'S DEBATE AND DIVISION.

MR. DODSON'S Bill for the Abolition of Religious Tests in taking the higher academical degrees at the University of Oxford, was read a second time on Wednesday last. "The policy of indiscriminate resistance" to all proposals of eccliaetical change, as Mr. Gladstone aptly characterised it, which, under Mr. Disraeli's guidance, has been lately carried out by the Conservative party, has sustained a timely check. A majority of twenty-two in favour of a measure of relief from State-Church worry indicates a rather unexpected turn of the tide. We have good reason for believing that this advantage was not obtained in consequence of any relaxation in the severity of the Tory whip. But both the debate and the division-list showed a slight recovery of the Liberals from the apathy with which, for the last two or three years, they have been accustomed to regard all efforts for extending, however slightly, freedom of conscience. We give its due weight to the fact that the Bill was initiated by the hon. member for East Sussex to give effect to the views of a considerable University party. We do not conceal from ourselves that it was framed to give relief to Churchmen as well as to Dissenters. We will not lay more stress than we ought upon the near approach of a General Election, nor will we insist that the electoral policy recently inaugurated by the Liberation Society has waked up some members to a consciousness that contemptuous neglect of every Nonconformist claim may not be quite so safe a game to play as it has been. But this we do say—that an intelligent analysis of the division-list will result in the conviction that a favourable change has come over the Liberal party—that some new motive-power must have stirred them—and that, even during the remaining term of the present Parliament, obstructive clericalism is not destined to have uncontrolled sway.

We have given in another column a sketch of the debate from the pen of a gentleman who was present. We need not detain our readers, therefore, further than may be requisite to draw their attention to one or two of its more salient features. Satisfactory as were some of the speeches in support of the measure, it cannot be pretended that the discussion, as a whole, was of a highly promising kind. Discussion never is when the issue joined is not clear and unmistakable. Mr. Dodson evidently attached greater importance to present victory than to future progress. The principle of his Bill, as it stands, is not very intelligible, but such as it is, he indicated his willingness to change it for a more restrictive one in committee. The effect was to confuse his supporters and to exhibit a weak and wavering point in his line against which his opponents were sure to direct their charge. The advancing party, having no unity of purpose, knew not

how, or how far, to use their artillery of argument, and it seemed uncertain whether, in the delivery of their fire, the different sections, for want of a distinct knowledge of the object to be aimed at, might not damage one another more than the common foe. It is true, the second reading has been carried, and we do not undervalue the prestige of triumph under present circumstances. But what beyond that has been gained? And what, if the proposed modification be accepted in committee, will the measure be worth to Nonconformists, or, indeed, to the general cause of University reform?

We suppose the hon. member for East Sussex will not dispute the allegation that, but for the support tendered to him by Nonconformists he would, beyond all doubt, have sustained a defeat. He can hardly imagine that had he proposed by his Bill merely to open the Oxford degree of M.A. to Dissenters, and so to assimilate the practice of the two Universities, the measure would have offered the Nonconforming bodies anything worth struggling for. The only step in advance promised them by the measure was the admission it would give them to Convocation—and even this, stopping short as it does of all the substantial rewards of academical ambition, was accepted, not for any practical advantage it would be likely to confer, but merely for the principle which it embodied. And now, if under cover of giving to Dissenters a small instalment of their rights, Liberal Churchmen, having obtained for themselves a release from the galling imposition of subscription to an elaborate system of dogmatic theology, and freedom to enter any office and enjoy any emolument for which the M.A. degree is an indispensable qualification, surrender the only provision of the Bill by which they gained the aid of their allies, we do not conceive that they will have placed themselves in a very honourable position. This is not the last time they will desire help from without. Mr. Dodson's Bill, as proposed to be modified in committee, will not have secured a perfection of academical freedom even to the laity of the Church of England. Young Oxford, whom, for the time being, Mr. Dodson represents, will hardly acquiesce in the bargain he will have made for them as complete and final. We respectfully put it to him and to them, therefore, whether it will be good policy to leave a portion of his forces, without which he could not have obtained his majority, "out in the cold."

It may be that the hon. member for East Sussex will be able, with the assent of the Conservative leaders, to carry through his measure without further aid from the Nonconformists. If that be his intention, he would be prudent to make sure of his ground. The next stage is to be taken on Wednesday, the 1st of June. That is rather late in the Session for the Bill of a private member to go into committee with much hope of passing through all its stages in both Houses. We do not say the hope cannot be realised. But it is not likely to be realised without the active assistance of the Government, nor then unless the Lords are friendly. The emasculated measure stands even then a good chance of a premature death. But should accident defeat the object of the hon. member for East Sussex, and his first legislative effort prove abortive, in what position will his concession to the Conservatives have placed his own party? Are they strong enough of themselves to give effect to their Liberal tendencies? If not, will the manner in which they have cast a section of their supporters overboard brighten their future prospects? Our conviction is that if Mr. Dodson will take counsel of his own friends, not Dissenters, but Churchmen, not in the House, but out of it, he will see the importance of abiding by the integrity of his measure. No doubt, it will be lost for this Session if he does, but it will not have been lost ignobly. Meanwhile, he will have this ground of consolation—that he will not have rendered hopeless the future of the party he represents. On the contrary, he will have secured to them an accession of political power which they will surely want.

## ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

THE reader is perhaps aware of the existence of a society called the "Irish Church Missions Society," and has also, perhaps, wondered why there should be any necessity for such an organisation. The Irish Church having revenues amounting to more than three-quarters of a million sterling, and these revenues being ostensibly devoted to the support and extension of Protestantism, one would have thought that there must have been something to show for them. But the Churchmen of England seem to have come to the conclusion that the Irish Church is a failure, and they have therefore established a society to do what the Church professes to do, but does not. The income of this society is 30,000*l.* With this sum Scripture-readers and missionaries are sustained, and elaborate reports have been published of the success of these men in converting Roman Catholics to Protestantism—reports such as the Irish Church has never dreamed of publishing. It has been difficult, of course, not to believe the representations that have been made on this subject, although the great number of conversions have not appeared to make in thirty years a sensible difference in the relative proportions of Roman Catholics and Protestants. But in December last the Rev. G. Webster, M.A., Chancellor of the Diocese of Cork, boldly proclaimed his disbelief in many of the representations which had been made, and charged the society or its agents with gaining such converts as they did gain by means of the most unblushing bribery. This was too serious a charge to be allowed to pass unnoticed, and therefore, for three months past, the Cork newspapers have teemed with letters from Mr. Webster and the society's representatives. The whole of this correspondence is now published. We have read it very carefully from beginning to end, and are obliged to admit that Mr. Webster's charges remain unrefuted. More, he has compelled the society's representatives virtually to admit them, one by one, and has not, as far as we can see, left room for any legitimate doubt as to the equally good intentions and questionable agencies of the Irish Church Missions.

It is not pleasant to rake up scandals, but the Irish Church being one huge heap of scandals, it is impossible, if you refer to the subject at all, to avoid them. These are the charges made by the Chancellor of Cork:—

I could give instances where the ordained agents of the Irish Church Missions paid Protestants to pretend they were Roman Catholics at your controversial meetings, and at these meetings to call these very ordained agents the hardest names. I could tell you of a school, of which it was reported that there were eighty Roman Catholics in attendance, when the fact was, not a single Roman Catholic ever entered the school, except some five or six wretched children who were sent from Dublin by the Irish Church Missions Society. I could tell you of a scene I once witnessed at the same establishment, where, on a Sunday morning, large quantities of bread were given to Roman Catholics for learning a verse of Holy Scripture, and where these same people, in my presence, went away cursing the Protestants, and cursing the very persons who gave them the bread and taught them the verse. I could tell you of agents who were known to be charged with drunkenness and other vices, who entered in their reports that they were persecuted, when they merely got into broils in their drunkenness, and who were, in spite of the remonstrances of the parish clergyman, retained in their offices. I could tell you of a report, made by one ordained agent, that he had made fourteen converts from Romanism in a certain locality, and who had to acknowledge, when I inquired closely into the matter, that these fourteen persons did not belong at all to that locality—that they had been brought there by this agent himself from distant places, and lodged in a school-house, and then represented as converts from the locality where they had been supported for a few weeks. These and many other facts I could repeat, and there are multitudes of clergymen in Ireland who are able to bear a similar testimony from their own experience; but I should prefer to confine our present controversy to the one grand objection—the charge of, what I must call, bribery.

This is a terrible indictment but the last charge is both sustained and proved. Mr. Webster fully



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### LAST WEDNESDAY'S DEBATE AND DIVISION.

MR. DODSON'S Bill for the Abolition of Religious Tests in taking the higher academical degrees at the University of Oxford, was read a second time on Wednesday last. "The policy of indiscriminate resistance" to all proposals of ecclesiastical change, as Mr. Gladstone aptly characterised it, which, under Mr. Disraeli's guidance, has been lately carried out by the Conservative party, has sustained a timely check. A majority of twenty-two in favour of a measure of relief from State-Church worry indicates a rather unexpected turn of the tide. We have good reason for believing that this advantage was not obtained in consequence of any relaxation in the severity of the Tory whip. But both the debate and the division-list showed a slight recovery of the Liberals from the apathy with which, for the last two or three years, they have been accustomed to regard all efforts for extending, however slightly, freedom of conscience. We give its due weight to the fact that the Bill was initiated by the hon. member for East Sussex to give effect to the views of a considerable University party. We do not conceal from ourselves that it was framed to give relief to Churchmen as well as to Dissenters. We will not lay more stress than we ought upon the near approach of a General Election, nor will we insist that the electoral policy recently inaugurated by the Liberation Society has waked up some members to a consciousness that contemptuous neglect of every Nonconformist claim may not be quite so safe a game to play as it has been. But this we do say—that an intelligent analysis of the division-list will result in the conviction that a favourable change has come over the Liberal party—that some new motive-power must have stirred them—and that, even during the remaining term of the present Parliament, obstructive clericalism is not destined to have uncontrolled sway.

We have given in another column a sketch of the debate from the pen of a gentleman who was present. We need not detain our readers, therefore, further than may be requisite to draw their attention to one or two of its more salient features. Satisfactory as were some of the speeches in support of the measure, it cannot be pretended that the discussion, as a whole, was of a highly promising kind. Discussion never is when the issue joined is not clear and unmistakeable. Mr. Dodson evidently attached greater importance to present victory than to future progress. The principle of his Bill, as it stands, is not very intelligible, but such as it is, he indicated his willingness to change it for a more restrictive one in committee. The effect was to confuse his supporters and to exhibit a weak and wavering point in his line against which his opponents were sure to direct their charge. The advancing party, having no unity of purpose, knew not

how, or how far, to use their artillery of argument, and it seemed uncertain whether, in the delivery of their fire, the different sections, for want of a distinct knowledge of the object to be aimed at, might not damage one another more than the common foe. It is true, the second reading has been carried, and we do not undervalue the prestige of triumph under present circumstances. But what beyond that has been gained? And what, if the proposed modification be accepted in committee, will the measure be worth to Nonconformists, or, indeed, to the general cause of University reform?

We suppose the hon. member for East Sussex will not dispute the allegation that, but for the support tendered to him by Nonconformists he would, beyond all doubt, have sustained a defeat. He can hardly imagine that had he proposed by his Bill merely to open the Oxford degree of M.A. to Dissenters, and so to assimilate the practice of the two Universities, the measure would have offered the Nonconforming bodies anything worth struggling for. The only step in advance promised them by the measure was the admission it would give them to Convocation—and even this, stopping short as it does of all the substantial rewards of academical ambition, was accepted, not for any practical advantage it would be likely to confer, but merely for the principle which it embodied. And now, if under cover of giving to Dissenters a small instalment of their rights, Liberal Churchmen, having obtained for themselves a release from the galling imposition of subscription to an elaborate system of dogmatic theology, and freedom to enter any office and enjoy any emolument for which the M.A. degree is an indispensable qualification, surrender the only provision of the Bill by which they gained the aid of their allies, we do not conceive that they will have placed themselves in a very honourable position. This is not the last time they will desire help from without. Mr. Dodson's Bill, as proposed to be modified in committee, will not have secured a perfection of academical freedom even to the laity of the Church of England. Young Oxford, whom, for the time being, Mr. Dodson represents, will hardly acquiesce in the bargain he will have made for them as complete and final. We respectfully put it to him and to them, therefore, whether it will be good policy to leave a portion of his forces, without which he could not have obtained his majority, "out in the cold."

It may be that the hon. member for East Sussex will be able, with the assent of the Conservative leaders, to carry through his measure without further aid from the Nonconformists. If that be his intention, he would be prudent to make sure of his ground. The next stage is to be taken on Wednesday, the 1st of June. That is rather late in the Session for the Bill of a private member to go into committee with much hope of passing through all its stages in both Houses. We do not say the hope cannot be realised. But it is not likely to be realised without the active assistance of the Government, nor then unless the Lords are friendly. The emasculated measure stands even then a good chance of a premature death. But should accident defeat the object of the hon. member for East Sussex, and his first legislative effort prove abortive, in what position will his concession to the Conservatives have placed his own party? Are they strong enough of themselves to give effect to their Liberal tendencies? If not, will the manner in which they have cast a section of their supporters overboard brighten their future prospects? Our conviction is that if Mr. Dodson will take counsel of his own friends, not Dissenters, but Churchmen, not in the House, but out of it, he will see the importance of abiding by the integrity of his measure. No doubt, it will be lost for this Session if he does, but it will not have been lost ignobly. Meanwhile, he will have this ground of consolation—that he will not have rendered hopeless the future of the party he represents. On the contrary, he will have secured to them an accession of political power which they will surely want.

## ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

THE reader is perhaps aware of the existence of a society called the "Irish Church Missions Society," and has also, perhaps, wondered why there should be any necessity for such an organisation. The Irish Church having revenues amounting to more than three-quarters of a million sterling, and these revenues being ostensibly devoted to the support and extension of Protestantism, one would have thought that there must have been something to show for them. But the Churchmen of England seem to have come to the conclusion that the Irish Church is a failure, and they have therefore established a society to do what the Church professes to do, but does not. The income of this society is 30,000*l*. With this sum Scripture-readers and missionaries are sustained, and elaborate reports have been published of the success of these men in converting Roman Catholics to Protestantism—reports such as the Irish Church has never dreamed of publishing. It has been difficult, of course, not to believe the representations that have been made on this subject, although the great number of conversions have not appeared to make in thirty years a sensible difference in the relative proportions of Roman Catholics and Protestants. But in December last the Rev. G. Webster, M.A., Chancellor of the Diocese of Cork, boldly proclaimed his disbelief in many of the representations which had been made, and charged the society or its agents with gaining such converts as they did gain by means of the most unblushing bribery. This was too serious a charge to be allowed to pass unnoticed, and therefore, for three months past, the Cork newspapers have teemed with letters from Mr. Webster and the society's representatives. The whole of this correspondence is now published. We have read it very carefully from beginning to end, and are obliged to admit that Mr. Webster's charges remain unrefuted. More, he has compelled the society's representatives virtually to admit them, one by one, and has not, as far as we can see, left room for any legitimate doubt as to the equally good intentions and questionable agencies of the Irish Church Missions.

It is not pleasant to rake up scandals, but the Irish Church being one huge heap of scandals, it is impossible, if you refer to the subject at all, to avoid them. These are the charges made by the Chancellor of Cork:—

I could give instances where the ordained agents of the Irish Church Missions paid Protestants to pretend they were Roman Catholics at your controversial meetings, and at these meetings to call these very ordained agents the hardest names. I could tell you of a school, of which it was reported that there were eighty Roman Catholics in attendance, when the fact was, not a single Roman Catholic ever entered the school, except some five or six wretched children who were sent from Dublin by the Irish Church Missions Society. I could tell you of a scene I once witnessed at the same establishment, where, on a Sunday morning, large quantities of bread were given to Roman Catholics for learning a verse of Holy Scripture, and where these same people, in my presence, went away cursing the Protestants, and cursing the very persons who gave them the bread and taught them the verse. I could tell you of agents who were known to be charged with drunkenness and other vices, who entered in their reports that they were persecuted, when they merely got into broils in their drunkenness, and who were, in spite of the remonstrances of the parish clergyman, retained in their offices. I could tell you of a report, made by one ordained agent, that he had made fourteen converts from Romanism in a certain locality, and who had to acknowledge, when I inquired closely into the matter, that these fourteen persons did not belong at all to that locality—that they had been brought there by this agent himself from distant places, and lodged in a school-house, and then represented as converts from the locality where they had been supported for a few weeks. These and many other facts I could repeat, and there are multitudes of clergymen in Ireland who are able to bear a similar testimony from their own experience; but I should prefer to confine our present controversy to the one grand objection—the charge of, what I must call, bribery.

This is a terrible indictment but the last charge is both sustained and proved. Mr. Webster fully



establishes the fact that money, food, and clothes are given to Roman Catholic children on condition that they listen to Protestant teaching and attend a Protestant place of worship. The society replies that this is not done with the society's money, but by local agencies in connection with the society, co-operating with it and sanctioned by it. Mr. Webster therefore charges them with encouraging sin. "I complain," he says, "not that temporal relief is given to our starving fellow-creatures, but that it is given on condition that they commit sin. You do not deny that if that relief be given to induce them to do what they believe to be wrong, the Roman Catholic commits sin who violates his conscience, and you sin doubly in offering the worldly inducement for such a purpose." The reply of the Rev. A. R. C. Dallas to this is as follows:—"Mr. Webster exalts the office of conscience into the authority of law, and states that a man breaks the law and sins if he acts contrary to his conscience," which Mr. Dallas believes to be "an error"! And on this principle—that conscience is not an authority—the Irish Church Missions proceed. Small Roman Catholics are tempted by bread and trousers to do what their conscience tells them to be wrong, and the Irish Church Missions give glory to God. We were going to say that this is an instructive correspondence. Well, and so it is. The "Four Rectors" who edit the pamphlet have published it for the purpose of showing that the Irish Establishment cannot be defended on the ground that it is a Missionary Church; for they say, "To every sober-minded person it must be obvious that if this were the only ground upon which the Established Church in Ireland could be defended, there is no enlightened statesman in the House of Commons who could defend its existence for one year." We should think not, especially after reading this unique correspondence. The "Four Rectors" look upon the Church as "a great social blessing," and we do not for a moment doubt that to most rectors in Ireland it is a social blessing indeed. But what is it to the people? Is it not refreshing, however, to read such a simple declaration of faith in respect to ecclesiastical establishments as this of the "Four Rectors":—"If the Church of Ireland is to stand or fall according to the number of converts from Popery which can be quoted, the Church of England will soon be called upon to prove its success." And here we may well leave the subject.

There is a pleasanter one discussed, and in a much more pleasant manner, in the *Clerical Journal*. The writer devotes an article to the subject of National Education. We shall be forgiven if we quote from this paper more largely than we are wont to do, for the sound sense of justice, strong common-sense, and good feeling which characterise it, are qualities with which it is so unusual to meet in this quarter, that we can scarcely make too much of them when we find them. The writer is of opinion that the claims of Dissenters must be listened to:—

In the present position of religious parties in England, all of which are placed on a level as to common rights and privileges, it would be simply absurd, if not unjust, to make all pay for a dominant class, or to ignore and disregard the opinions of sectarians because they happen to be in a minority. The time is gone by when men were called to submit to personal inconveniences and sacrifices from the hands of Government because they could not or would not sign the Thirty-nine Articles, or regularly attend their parish church, nor do we regret the changes which, in this respect, have come over our country. While we most heartily desire that Dissent should cease, and would give something to see seceders closing the doors of their Mount Zions and Cave Adullams, as long as they prefer such holes and corners to the Jerusalem which is built as a city compact together, we willingly accord to them full political and social freedom, and are anxious that the taxes they pay should never be used to oppress them.

This is a broad foundation to lay, and there rises upon it a fair and goodly superstructure. The claims of Dissenters must not be listened to merely, but it must be granted that they are reasonable:—

We cannot expect to have our own way in everything, if we consent to take the assistance of Government. We do not wonder, therefore, that the Council should endeavour to bring the National Society to admit the proposed conscience clause in all its schools which stand alone in villages and towns, in order that Dissenters may avail themselves of these benefits. The amount of aid granted by the Government may be but small compared with the other available sums supplied by Church-people, yet, *quantum valeant*, such assistances can hardly be afforded if they are to operate to the exclusion, or the compulsory religious education, of the children of Dissenters in a parish. We write now on the broadest principle, without references to any particular case. There are, no doubt, many parishes where Dissent is at a low ebb, and where the influence of the Church is quite strong enough to prevent such conscientious objections from being obtruded, even if they are felt; but such cases do not affect the argument concerned in the subject urged upon us by the Council. They must take broad principles for their guidance, and the principle on which they act in the matter before us is, that where State pay is received it should not be used to support a monopoly; that when the only school in a

parish is thus subsidised by the State, the latter is bound to see that its benefits are open to all its subjects.

Lastly the Church must consider the matter and think whether she had better not relinquish State pay altogether.

The matter must be weighed carefully, and be viewed on every side, so that the judgment may strike a correct balance of advantages and disadvantages. We may rest assured that the Committee of Council are not likely to withdraw their demand; and even if they did so, the subject would be discussed, and would be sure to go against us in Parliament. The vast amount of money and labour confessedly spent by the Church of England on the education of the poor, would not be admitted as a reason why she should receive State pay while she adheres to a system of monopoly; on the contrary, it will be said that the wealthiest and most influential part of the community can well do without external aid at all. Perhaps many of the clergy and laity will think it better to decline the aid of Government than to be hampered and hindered in carrying out the system of the Church in their parishes. We should like to have the opinion of our experienced friends on this point. At the present time many village National Schools are without that aid, and yet succeed in their objects; and if the smaller places can do this there must be less real difficulty with the larger ones.

These, to the friends of religious equality and voluntary education, will be welcome words, and we tender to the *Clerical Journal* our thanks for writing them. It is refreshing to be able to see "eye to eye" in only one matter.

We wish this were so in another question, and we should not then have such a horrible case to refer to as we have in connection with a Church-rate seizure at Broseley. Since burnings and imprisonments have ceased in England, the seizure of nearly the whole of the worldly goods of James Clarke, for a Church-rate of fifteen-pence halfpenny, is the worst exhibition of State-Churchism that has occurred. This poor labouring man, with a wife and seven children, a bed-ridden mother eighty-three years of age, and an imbecile sister forty-three years of age, has had his home stripped to satisfy this demand. The execution, as will be seen, was made with the most gratuitous harshness. We don't believe there is a Jew or heathen living who, for his own debt, would have executed the law with such refinement of cruelty. These things are never done now excepting in the name of the Established Church, and by the appointed officers of that Church. We need not say how much such vindictive policy serves the cause and the men they so warmly hate. By-the-bye, the Rector of Broseley is the holder of two good livings, having recently himself bought the advowson of the second and best. Altogether, therefore, the Church cause in Broseley is not in very good odour.

If not in Broseley, what must it be in Edinburgh? Here we have more excited meetings, more "rounings" for the benefit of the city clergy, and some threatening, we fear, of a serious breach of the peace. The large and influential meeting held in Brighton-street Church on Friday, is, we hope, only one of a series of such gatherings. Now is it the last time that such a bill as the following is likely to be issued?—

#### ROBBERY AND RELIGION.

Fellow Citizens!  
The Furniture of one of your Number is to be sold by Public Roup at  
4, Rankellour-street,  
On Monday, at Half-past Eleven o'clock,  
In Behoof of the  
City Clergy.

As the effects have been pointed at less than one eighth of their real value, it is expected that those who "love justice and hate robbery," will be in time to ensure a vigorous competition.

Christians are informed that among other valuable articles, there is a beautiful engraving of the Last Supper of Christ and His Apostles.

This sale took place on Monday as promised. Our intelligence columns show how it proceeded.

With such facts the "Counsels to Church-rate Abolitionists" which appear elsewhere, are seriously needed. They stir us—if we have any blood to be stirred—more than words or figures. Next week, doubtless, some hundreds of vestries will pass a resolution which will result in some hundreds more seizures. Easter Tuesday! the day after the resurrection of the Great Illustrious Victim of the application of physical force to the Christian religion. Did the Edinburgh clergy "point" the scene of the "Last Supper," with a delicate reference to this season?

#### THE DEBATE ON OXFORD UNIVERSITY TESTS.

[BY A SPECTATOR.]

Some adherents of the State-Church have lately been congratulating themselves that the Ecclesiastical Wednesdays were at an end—for this session at least. The abstention policy, adopted by the friends of religious equality for good and sufficient reasons,

has, of course, been trumpeted by their opponents as a sign of weakness, if not of defeat. The heroes of the Wednesday campaigns—where are they? Are they not vanquished? No one now hears the voice of a Trelawny, a Dillwyn, a Peto, a Hadfield, a Baines, a Barnes, and other members of that well-known phalanx who have so often spoilt the digestion of country squires. Is Parliament, then, to have perpetual rest? Last Wednesday's experience has rudely dispelled the illusion. There was the same House as in the last or preceding sessions,—ecclesiastical topics were still the absorbing theme,—but the *dramatis personæ* were entirely changed. Those sacred bulwarks, which are held to be the grand defences of the State-Church, were being assailed by its own avowed friends. It was Young Oxford, not Young Nonconformity, which led the attack, and, with the silent help of the latter, gained the victory—such as it was.

The majority of our legislators on both sides have no taste for mid-day debates, so that when Mr. Dodson rose to move the second reading of his bill, there was but a sprinkling of members on either side of the Speaker's chair. The member for East Sussex has never been accused of Radicalism, and his speech was marked by caution as well as earnestness. He spoke to his brief with the tact of a Queen's Counsel. He carefully avoided damaging admissions or alarming prophecies, slurred over the provision which enabled Dissenting M.A.'s to become members of Convocation as unimportant, and one which might be dealt with in committee, and recommended his measure as likely to benefit the Church as well as the University by bringing Nonconformists within range of its influence. How could either be injured by opening the portals of Alma Mater to all comers as far as the M.A. degree, when all the emoluments and prizes lay beyond? No one in either House of Parliament justified the present subscriptions, which were described by the Oxford Commissioners in 1853 as morally injurious to those who used them. Why should Oxford University become "a godless institution," and its vitality be diminished, by doing for it what had been done in the case of Cambridge, Dublin, and the Scotch Universities?

Mr. Neate, the new member for the city of Oxford, and an active member of the University, who seconded the motion, was not content to occupy such low ground in supporting the bill. He spoke with a force and breadth of view which not only gained the ear of the House, but marks him out as one of the foremost leaders of the Young Oxford party. He started with the postulate that the University of Oxford was no more a Church of England corporation than any corporation in the kingdom before the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts. It was really a lay and public corporation. Nor did he shrink from the application of a principle so revolutionary to Tory and clerical ears. It was all very well to say that Dissenters were not excluded from the University, but they were stopped in their career just when the prizes were within reach. Therefore, the colleges ought to be thrown open. The measure before them would, indeed, be of little value unless it paved the way for a full admission to the emoluments and professorships. Mr. Neate's ideal seems to be a national University at Oxford, with a Church of England college in connection with it. But the difficulty of the moment is not the Dissenters, but the lay members of the University, who find themselves hampered by these unnecessary tests, more burdensome as intelligence and free inquiry increased. The probable results of maintaining the present system were thus clearly pointed out:—

The minds of the undergraduates could not fail to be influenced by the spectacle of conscientious Dissent, regardless of personal sacrifice, on the part of those who were many of them the brightest and best-trained intellects in the University; and to what would the men turn who were thus excluded? They would most probably recruit the ranks of the press, which, with one or two exceptions, although not of an irreligious character, certainly shrank from any acceptance of dogmatic theology; and what was now only a friendly scepticism would be converted into severe and bitter hostility. These considerations brought them to the brink of questions compared with which all other matters before the House sank into comparative insignificance.

In order to give the greater weight to the opposition, it was arranged that it should be led by Sir W. Heathcote, the senior member for Oxford University, and representative of its clerical and predominating element. His task was not a difficult one. Wisely refraining from defending the University petition he had himself presented, and which was so neatly demolished by Mr. Dodson, he said that the main principle of the bill was to break the connection between the University and the Church. Yet that principle the mover was ready to drop in committee. Why should the House be thus "dragged through the dirt"? He would therefore meet the bill by a direct negative, though he was ready to admit that if the proposal had been to assimilate the practice of the two Universities, he should have found greater difficulty in opposing it.

Issue was now fairly joined, and it became evident that, whatever the result of the division, the House was in for a long and sober debate. It is not necessary here to follow it step by step. Not the least striking feature of the discussion was the efficient



way in which the representatives of the Liberal section of Oxford University maintained their ground. Mr. Grant Duff, a Northern man, as one may say, with Southern tendencies, promptly followed Sir William Heathcote; and if his delivery was imperfect and manner abrupt, he made some telling points, especially in contrasting Oxford with other European seats of learning, in asking whether the recent scene in the Sheldonian Theatre was to be taken as a favourable specimen of the mode in which the University was governed, and in contrasting the liberality of Oxford two centuries ago, when it had a Greek Church College, with its present exclusiveness. At a later period Mr. Charles Buxton came to the aid of his friends by showing that the supreme object of the bill was to bring the law of the land into harmony with actual facts; for the subjection of the minds of laymen to the dogmatic teachings of others, was a mere dream of the past. And before the debate closed Mr. Gushen, the member for the City, also endeavoured to meet the false issues which had been raised by describing the chief object of the measure to be the getting rid of a system "which distressed conscience, promoted dishonesty, impeded learning, and discouraged theological study at the University." Each of these members of the Young Oxford party was listened to with marked attention. When will Nonconformity in the House of Commons be as well organised and as ably represented in debate?

Of course the most important feature of the debate was the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech. When Mr. Gladstone rose, the members stole in from all the purlieus around the House—many who had been driven away by Mr. Newdegate's lugubrious tones and solemn appeals. Mr. Gladstone had to reconcile his position as the representative of Oxford University with the claims of the Liberal party at his back, and therefore took upon himself the office of mediator. He is ready at once to open the portals of Oxford as far as those of Cambridge—that is, to keep the governing body of the University free from extraneous influence; but he does not see why the clerical test—which he would preserve—"should be applied to the 3,000 laymen constituting the majority of Convocation." He can neither justify the exclusion of Dissenters from lay degrees nor the maintaining of the lay test for Churchmen. He thinks Nonconformists are anxious to establish private halls in the University under masters of their own persuasion, and would remove all obstacles to that end. But are there any private halls at Cambridge, where all difficulties as to their creation have been removed? Is not Mr. Gladstone under a misconception in this respect? But the general drift of his able and careful speech was more important than his specific concessions—the "five points included." The ground he took was this—"the policy of indiscriminate resistance" is antiquated as well as unjust. The Legislature *had* interfered and must go forward, according to the requirements of the case. And then, giving that well-selected phrase a wider application, he read the Opposition a dignified and impressive lecture on the madness of their "No-surrender" policy, in throwing away golden opportunities for uniting and knitting together the mind and hearts of men by reasonable concession at a time when the religion of the Church—and this was spoken with great emphasis—"was subject to peculiar, and perhaps unprecedented danger." That policy of resistance to almost every measure of relief and relaxation proposed during the last two or three years—that assertion of right "by majorities, which have been perhaps somewhat ruthlessly and certainly sternly made, was by no means calculated to diminish those dangers which lie in the future"; and both as a Minister and member of that side of the House, he declined to be associated with a policy "no more fatal to the application of the principles of civil and social justice than to the best interests of the Church of England herself."

We could almost imagine, as we listened to the eloquent peroration of Mr. Gladstone, that he must have diligently read the reports of the recent electoral conferences of the Liberation Society, and was wishful, like a far-seeing statesman, to avert danger to the Liberal party by recognising in the most emphatic way the reasonableness of the claims of Nonconformists, and the necessity of meeting them by practical legislation.

In a very lengthened, ingenious, and somewhat tedious speech, Mr. Selwyn, one of the members for Cambridge University, endeavoured to turn aside the effect of Mr. Gladstone's appeal by showing the revolutionary character of the measure proposed, the different views entertained by its promoters, and the injury which the sons of Dissenting parents now receiving the benefits of a University education would receive! Mr. Selwyn quite overdid his special pleading when he said that they were asked to do for Oxford what "the Dissenting body would not permit to be done in the case of any school or college instituted for the religious education of the members or ministers of a particular persuasion—namely, that the members of the governing body of that institution should be admitted without any religious test or qualification whatever." As though Oxford University were a private institution! He boasted that ninety-nine hundredths of those educated at the Universities were Churchmen; but once relax the connection between the Church and our seats of learning, and "the result would be that the parents and guardians of those young men who desired to see them educated in the principles of the Church—if the connection between the Church and the Universities were rudely severed, as it would be by the passing of this bill—would at once set about the establishment of some other body, with features of exclusion

so cardinal and fundamental as effectually to keep out the sons of Dissenters." We should like to be present when the ninety-nine hundredths of Churchmen marched out of Oxford, because a few Dissenters had become members of Convocation. But the House seemed to keep a grave face while these puerile and inconsistent arguments were being urged.

The House was now rapidly filling for the forthcoming division. Mr. Disraeli was present during the greater part of the debate—would he come in at the close to signalise another triumph over the ecclesiastical revolutionists? Colonel Taylor steals to the side of his chief, probably to report the result of his "whip." That it was not favourable might be inferred from the absence of any smile of satisfaction on Mr. Disraeli's countenance, and from his evident intention to keep silence. But Sir Stafford Northcote, once, if we remember aright, a candidate for the representation of Oxford University, and Mr. Walpole, the other member for Cambridge University, did their best to rebut the charge of "indiscriminate resistance," by declaring that their concessions had been repudiated or were made the stepping-stones to ulterior objects. Mr. Walpole cannot forget the rejection of his Church-rate Bill. But both speakers, knowing what was to be the issue of the debate, expressed their readiness to put Oxford on the same footing as Cambridge.

Stung, apparently, by the taunts of the preceding speakers, Sir G. Grey, before the debate closed, briefly protested that he for one was not prepared to sever the connection between the Church and the University, and said that his hon. friend (Mr. Dodson) proposed to add a qualification in committee to the effect that an M.A. degree should not entitle any person to become a member of Convocation without test. Assuming that Sir George is correctly reported, it is difficult to understand why, if the principle of admitting Dissenters to Convocation was to be so soon abandoned, it should have been admitted in the first instance.

In a very crowded House, the Speaker put the question. The "Noes" were emphatic and sonorous as of yore, and to the uninitiated seemed about to obtain another Wednesday's victory. But when the paper was handed to Mr. Dodson, a cheer general, but by no means exulting, arose from the Liberal benches, and then the great body of members rushed out of the House like a parcel of schoolboys.

There were, as the division showed, 400 members present—the highest attendance during the present session—and the largeness of the majority, 22, was a matter of general surprise. To what extent it was owing to Mr. Gladstone's speech and to the growing dislike of tests among independent Conservatives, it is impossible to say. But it is probable Mr. Dodson was greatly helped by the impression created by the recent rejection of the Jowett endowment, when there was such "an irruption of angry bigots from every corner of the land" into the Sheldonian Hall, Oxford.

#### [Advertisement.]

#### COUNSELS TO CHURCH-RATE ABOLITIONISTS.

Parliament abolished Church-rates (or vestry cess) in Ireland in the year 1833, and in 1834 the Government (Earl Grey's) proposed, "That, after a time to be fixed, the payment of Church-rates in England and Wales shall cease and determine."

That motion was carried; but thirty years have passed, and Church-rates are still levied!

The question has been discussed in almost every successive Parliament. Three times has it been referred to select committees. It has been the subject of numerous bills, some brought in by Liberals, some by Conservative administrations, and others by independent members. Twice has the House of Commons passed through all its stages a measure for abolishing the exaction, and twice has the same bill been rejected by a single vote.

Nearly the whole Liberal party is pledged to abolition; but the Liberal Government is divided and indifferent. The Conservative party admit the badness of the present law, but cannot produce a measure for amending it. They, however, unite to resist abolition, that they may damage their opponents, and obtain clerical support. Thus the question has been brought to a "dead-lock," and there is no hope of change until a general election, or the exigencies of party warfare, necessitate a forward movement.

Fortunately for Church-rate Abolitionists, the continuance of this unjust impost is not altogether dependent on the will of the Legislature. During the thirty years which Parliament has wasted, the work of abolition has been going on, almost uninterruptedly, in the parishes. It is parochial agitation which has swept away the impost in all the large, and in many of the smaller towns, as well as in hundreds of rural parishes—which has cut down the rates from 519,000*l.* (in 1829) to 232,905*l.* (in 1862)\*—and which has led so many Churchmen to resort to equitable means to maintain their worship. You owe to yourselves, and not to Parliament, all that you have gained, and all your prospects of complete success.

This great fact clearly indicates your present duty. The question is, for a while, practically remitted to the parish vestries. Parliament will not help you, but you can help yourselves; and it is now to be seen whether your will is equal to your power. Is there any room for hesitation? Public opinion is with you. Tens of thousands of Churchmen are with you. The law arms you with effective weapons. You have past experience to guide you; and you know, and your opponents know, that, sooner or later, you are sure to triumph.

But to do so, you must show yourself to be thoroughly in earnest. Where, for the avoidance of strife, and in the hope that Parliament would give relief, Church-rates have been hitherto submitted to, they should now be vigorously opposed. Where resistance is already offered, it should be more systematic, and more determined. Where rate-payers have rid themselves of the burden, they should help others in adjacent parishes, who

\* In 12,408 parishes. See return of local taxation for year previous to June, 1862.

have yet to fight the battle of voluntarism against coercion.

Let not the few in any parish suppose that, because they are weak, they are powerless. If they cannot extinguish rates, they can spread their principles. If beaten by votes, they may be victors in the use of arguments and facts. But the history of the anti-Church-rate agitation is a history of successful minorities, quite as much as of successful majorities. Courage and perseverance have accomplished more than numbers. Churchmen have a sufficient sense of justice and propriety to sicken of annual contests and distrains, which, it is felt, damage their Church, and injure the cause of religion.

It is equally important that vigilance should be exercised where rates have ceased to be levied; for the supporters of the exaction avow their wish to restore it where it has been abandoned. Notwithstanding a distinct Parliamentary pledge that new district churches should not be chargeable on Church-rates, it is now being sought to tax the rate-payers for expenses which should be cheerfully borne by the worshippers!

Neither let it be forgotten that Church-rates are now defended, not so much because they are either equitable or necessary, as because they are part of the Establishment, which, it is alleged, would be endangered by their extinction.

This determination to sink the Church-rate question in the Church Establishment question, affords to you an invaluable opportunity. When, therefore, you are summoned to a vestry to make a rate, insist on the indefensibility of a national institution which—on the showing of its own supporters—cannot exist without wronging half the nation, and which grievously misrepresents religion in the eye of the irreligious. And when summoned before the magistrate, and your houses are entered by the police, and your goods are sold by the broker, tell your fellow-parishioners that these are the necessary results of employing legal machinery for spiritual purposes.

Depend upon it that the shortest, surest mode of getting rid of Church-rates is to oppose them in your own parishes, and to do so in such a way as will produce the conviction that all State-interference with religion should be abandoned, and Christianity be supported by Christian means. If this purpose animate you, the prolongation of the Church-rate struggle will bring with it an ample compensation. Lasting good will have come out of a temporary evil, and the establishment of a great principle will also be the establishment of lasting peace.

If these counsels commend themselves to your judgment, now is the time to prepare for giving to them practical effect. With the arrival of Easter a new parochial year commences. When you can, secure the appointment of churchwardens known to be opposed to coercion, and to be willing to trust to voluntary effort. Keep a sharp look-out for vestry meetings. Be prepared rigidly to scrutinise accounts and estimates; to meet motions with amendments, and to poll the parish, as well as count hands in the vestry. Spare no pains to influence—by means of personal appeal, as well as of printed matter—the judgments and consciences of your fellow-parishioners, that none may be indifferent, or give a thoughtless vote. Prepare carefully; act firmly; speak calmly; and, above all, PERSEVERE, and you will, sooner or later, be rewarded for your sacrifices and your toil.

\* \* Those who are desirous of acting in accordance with the foregoing "Counsels," are recommended to place themselves in communication with THE SOCIETY FOR THE LIBERATION OF RELIGION FROM STATE-PATRONAGE AND CONTROL, which furnishes, gratuitously, legal advice, and also tracts and bills on both the Church-rate question, and other subjects relating to the working of the voluntary and the coercive principles. Communications may be addressed to "The Secretary," 2, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet-street, London.

#### LIBERATION SOCIETY MEETINGS.

BRIDGWATER.—A meeting was held in the Baptist chapel in this town on Tuesday evening, the 15th inst., when, notwithstanding the wetness of the evening, there was a large attendance. J. W. Sully, Esq., who presided, remarked that some years ago, when Church-rates were levied in the town, meetings were held, at which the principles of religious equality were broadly stated, but since those rates had ceased to be enforced in Bridgwater they had remained very quiet on questions of Church and State. He, however, thought that it was necessary to consider all the grievances still existing in connection with the Established Church, and to keep them before the public until they were abolished. J. Carvell Williams, Esq., who attended as a deputation, addressed the meeting at some length in an eloquent speech. He said it was very evident that all the scandals which he described would not lie at the door of the Church of England, if it were not fettered by connection with the State, and he urged the meeting to give support to the Liberation Society. The Rev. E. H. Jones (Independent) then moved a resolution, and in doing so, said that he had been for some years a member of the Liberation Society, but had never before spoken at one of its meetings. Perhaps he might be less esteemed in some circles for connecting himself so prominently with it now. He, however, felt that Dissenters ought to insist on equality with Churchmen. In proof of the assumption of the Established clergy, he referred to the conduct of a minister in the county who had interrupted a Dissenter whilst praying by a sick-bed, and disputed his right to visit the sick and pray with them in his parish. The motion was seconded by Mr. F. J. Thompson, and carried with applause. The Rev. C. Oliver Munns (Baptist) moved the next resolution, and referred to the proceedings of the Liberation Society, and the success which had attended its efforts in connection with religious grants, the universities, burial-grounds, and Church-rates. He rejoiced in the existence of the Liberation Society, because it had a work to do and was doing it. He would rejoice much more when it ceased to



exist, for he was sure that would not be the case until it had accomplished its work and established the Church of Christ on surer foundations than thrones and acts of Parliament—on the rock against which the gates of hell could not prevail. The Rev. J. S. Bulmer (Methodist Free Church) in seconding the resolution, expressed a hope that the Dissenters of the town would maintain religious equality amongst themselves while they were seeking it in relation to the members of the Established Church, and thus add the power of example to their words. The resolution was carried amidst great cheering, and the meeting closed with votes of thanks to the deputation and chairman.

TAUNTON.—On the 14th inst., Mr. Carvell Williams delivered an address in the Assembly Room, Taunton, to a very respectable audience. The Rev. H. Cowell, B.A., presided, and among those present were the Rev. W. H. Griffith, the Rev. W. Guest, and the Rev. Mr. Wilkinson. A resolution approving of the society's principles was unanimously passed.

#### "ESSAYS AND REVIEWS" JUDGMENT.

The signatures to the Oxford declaration up to Wednesday amounted to nearly 8,000. The declaration, with some of the more prominent signatures, were advertised in Monday's *Times*, and it is announced that the document "will be respectfully presented, with the signatures, by the committee to the Archbishops and Bishops of England and Ireland." Amongst the recent additions are—the Dean of St. Asaph, the Archdeacon of Chichester, the Archdeacon of Dorset, J. Gorbett, the Archdeacon of St. Asaph, the Dean of Down, the Rev. J. W. Burgon, Vicar of St. Mary's, Oxford, the Dean of Norwich, the Master of University College, Oxford, Mr. Shirley, the professor of ecclesiastical history, and Dr. Scott, the Master of Balliol College.

The *Record* of Monday says:—"We understand that about 9,000 adhesions have now been given to the declaration. Among the most recent is that of the Rev. E. Auriol. A well-informed correspondent informs us that the publication of Mr. Maurice's letters, and of the recent legal opinion, has excited an extraordinary amount of indignation, and, far from deterring subscribers, has added many names to the list."

A pastoral letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the clergy and laity of his diocese, on the recent judgment of the Privy Council, will be published in a few days by Messrs. Rivington.

The Norwich Diocesan Church Association has adopted a resolution declaring that an alteration in the court of final appeal in matters ecclesiastical is imperatively called for. The clergy of Potterne rural deanery have sent the Bishop of Salisbury an address of sympathy for his "self-sacrificing endeavours to banish unsound teaching" in the recent prosecution of Dr. Rowland Williams. They are also endeavouring to help in meeting the serious expenses incurred by the bishop in this prosecution. The bishop has also received an address from the clergy of his diocese at large, from which the following is an extract:—

My lord, we trust that a consideration of the crisis to which the Church of England appears to us to have been brought by these decisions may lead to that revision of the ecclesiastical laws and ecclesiastical courts which has been so long desired and so long delayed. In the mean time should this desirable object not be effected we hope and believe that the formularies and Articles of our Church, which have hitherto by God's help so materially contributed to keep her members in the faith, will by the same help preserve them in it; that truth will prevail; and that unsound opinions, which have of late been so rashly put forward, will quickly pass into oblivion. We feel assured that your lordship commenced the suit against Dr. Williams with much reluctance, and that in taking that step you were actuated by a high sense of duty to the Church over which has pleased God to make you an overseer. We sympathise with your lordship in the anxieties which we fear must have harassed you during the slow progress of that eventful cause, and we beg to assure you of our continued respect for your office and of our affection and gratitude for the kind manner in which it has been exercised.

On Wednesday a public meeting of the clergy and laity in the archdeaconry of Taunton was held at the Assembly-rooms, Taunton, to consider the propriety of petitioning the Upper House of Convocation of the province of Canterbury to pass synodical judgment upon the book called "Essays and Reviews." There was a tolerably large attendance. The Venerable Archdeacon Denison, who presided, said that this was a time in which circumstances had placed them in a position of deep responsibility; and it was to meet that responsibility that he had ventured to ask them to come there that day. The speaker briefly adverted to the judgment lately passed on "Essays and Reviews," and remarked that the decision of the Appeal Court did not say at all that they had not impugned the primary truths of the faith of Christ, but that the articles against them in the mutilated condition in which they had been submitted to the Appeal Court were not sufficient to sustain the charge. The speaker went on to say that there was an institution called the synod, an assembly of the clergy, whose especial province it was to guard the faith. That institution had fallen into disuse, but had been again revived, although, as he humbly conceived, in a very imperfect state. There had been no synodical declaration of the faith of the Church of England for 150 years. He had no disposition to find fault with the law court. When, however, the Church was in danger, that was not sufficient; and therefore it was necessary that the synod should speak. When the synod was

reformed, which he trusted he might live to see, all such questions as those would be safe in its hands, and it would be only for the constituents of the members of the synod to do such as the constituents of a member of Parliament did, namely, to request him to be present, and to do his duty. (Cheers.) The Rev. W. R. Clark, vicar of Taunton, moved the following resolution:—

That it appears to this meeting that the declaration issued from Oxford, February 29, 1864, is a correct expression of the faith of the United Church of England and Scotland upon the two points set forth in the declaration, and that the circumstances of the times call for such declaration on the part of the clergy.

Mr. Badcock seconded the motion in a brief speech, and it was carried unanimously. The Rural Dean of Taunton moved the second resolution:—

That it appears to the meeting that it is expedient to address the Upper House of Convocation of the province of Canterbury with a prayer that the House proceed to a synodical judgment upon the book entitled "Essays and Reviews."

The Rev. Mr. Sadleir, vicar of Bridgwater, seconded the motion. Sir John Lethbridge said he came there to prove that what Dr. Williams and Mr. Wilson said was true. The chairman—When we meet for that discussion we shall be glad to hear Sir John. (Hear, hear.) The motion was carried unanimously.

In a letter to the *Daily News* the Rev. H. B. Wilson strongly complains of the language made use of by Dr. Pusey in one of his published letters, especially the following passage in reference to himself:—

*We do not believe in the same God. God whom we adore in His inscrutable justice and holiness these writers affirm to be cruel. The God whom they acknowledge we believe to be the creature of their own minds, not the God who has revealed himself to man.*

"Dr. Pusey," says Mr. Wilson, "must reconcile it as he can with piety and charity to say of those who do not consider the endless duration of hell torment to be a Scriptural doctrine necessary to salvation, that they worship as God the creature of their own minds. But far be it from me to retort by affirming cruelty of the God whom Dr. Pusey worships. There was nothing in that passage cited by me from that distinguished scholar and eminent Christian pastor, Dr. Réville, approaching in the least degree the odious affirmation for which he would make us responsible."

#### CHURCH-RATES.

MARYLEBONE.—The Rev. Stewart Williamson was summoned to appear at Marylebone Court-house on Monday week, to show cause why he neglected or refused to pay the sum of 3*l*. 19*s*. 1*d*. for parochial rates, due at Christmas, and 5*s*. 9*d*. for Church-rates, due at Midsummer, 1863. There were five magistrates on the bench—Sir James Hamilton in the chair. The defendant denied that he had either neglected or refused to pay the parochial rates. On the contrary, he had tendered the sum of 3*l*. 19*s*. 1*d*. on the 3rd March, which the collector refused to receive, alleging, as the ground of his refusal, his instructions not to accept the payment of any portion of the rates unless the whole amounts were paid. A memorandum of the fact and date of this refusal, written by the collector on the back of his "application," was then presented to the court. The bench decided that the undisputed sum of 3*l*. 19*s*. 1*d*. should be accepted, and the summons be dismissed with costs. The defendant was prepared to plead that the Church-rate of 1*d*. in the pound on the enormous rental of this populous and wealthy parish was in excess of the sum required for the purposes contemplated by the Act of 51 Geo. III. cap. 151, and the Act 1 and 2 George IV. cap. 21, on the authority of which Acts the rates had been levied; and to prove that it lay upon those who sought to enforce such a rate to show that the rate was not excessive, and that the provisions of these Acts had been rigidly observed. The summons having been dismissed, however, it is obvious that this important point could not be raised. If it had, it certainly is not impossible the Bench might have decided that the rate was bad.

BRETHERTON.—At a vestry-meeting of this parish on Thursday week, a rate of 1*d*. per pound having been proposed, the Rev. Mr. Hodge, Independent minister, said that the rate was retrospective, and contained illegal items. He moved that a voluntary subscription be made to meet all proper and legal expenses, and that the meeting be adjourned for six weeks for that purpose. The chairman refused to put the motion. Mr. Hodge then proposed that several of the items in the estimate be struck out, viz.:—the sum of 3*l*. 3*s*. 6*d*. for expenses before the Chorley magistrates; the organist's salary, 2*l*.; organ-blower, 10*s*.—(laughter)—and tuning the organ, 1*l*. Mr. Wilson seconded the amendment. The votes were then taken, when thirty-four voted for the amendment, and thirty against it. The churchwarden demanded a poll. Mr. Hodge said that if a voluntary rate had been adopted, he would willingly have given double the amount he was asked to pay.

MATTISHALL, NORFOLK.—There is a reverend rector at Mattishall, of the name of Du Port, who is setting the parish by the ears, breathing out threatening and slaughter in his own pitiful, or, rather, pitiless fashion. At this critical moment he puts the law in motion against a number of his parishioners, particularly against a poor, hard-working, ill-paid Dissenting parson of the name of Kiddle, who we will answer for it does ten times as much good as the lordly rector, for one-tenth of his pay. And this poor Mr. Kiddle is sued, and is to be distrained upon, for a Church-rate of sevenpence, to pay for sundry little jobs done to the

Church, and for the gravelling of the walk along which Churchmen go to worship the God of love and justice. The proud follower of the meekest of Masters seems to enjoy it as a luxury, that he can make the little conventicler pay against his conscience.—*Norfolk News*.

SOUTHAMPTON.—At the petty sessions last week, J. Clarke, Esq., J.P., was summoned, but did not appear, for non-payment of 12*s*., due to the churchwardens of St. Lawrence as a Church-rate. A warrant was issued for the amount and costs.

CHURCH-RATE OUSTED AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM.—At the petty sessions of this town on the 8th, two clerical magistrates on the bench. John Richard Chaplin, farmer, Ridgwell, was summoned by the churchwardens of Stambourne, for non-payment of a Church-rate amounting to 8*s*. 10*d*., dated 16th October last. Mr. F. B. Philbrick, of Colchester, defended. From the examination of the churchwardens it appeared that Mr. Chaplin had made an amendment to the effect that "this meeting proposes that there be no rate, and that the churchwardens be requested to devise other means to obtain money required by them in their office to meet the necessary expenses of the current year." Mr. Philbrick said his first objection was, that inasmuch as the chairman of the vestry refused to put Mr. Chaplin's amendment, the whole proceedings were invalidated, because that amendment went into the whole merits of the question, and instead of being inconsistent was the most relevant amendment that could have been moved. The churchwardens proposed that a rate should be made; the amendment was a direct negative to this proposition, and no better could have been drawn up in Doctor's Commons. The chairman refused to put the amendment, and although the witnesses said that the original motion was put and carried, yet it remained true that the amendment, although duly moved and seconded, was not put. No chairman, whatever his own opinions might be, had a right to take upon himself to burke the proposition, and deprive the meeting of an opportunity of giving their opinion upon it. He contended, therefore, that the case was taken out of the jurisdiction of the bench. The Chairman said as the meeting was called to make a rate, it was totally inconsistent to make a proposal that there should be no rate. Mr. Philbrick contended that this ruling could not hold good for a moment. It did not follow because the object of the meeting was to make a rate that a rate should be made, because a majority might be against it, as in the celebrated Braintree case, where the proposal for a rate was met by a direct negative. He was not, however, driven to that. The chairman had no right to deprive the meeting of the opportunity of saying whether or not there should be a rate. He stood upon his objection that the amendment was illegally refused to be put, and thought the bench would be glad to escape the responsibility of deciding this question of law. The Chairman said there was no doubt their jurisdiction was ousted. They forbore giving judgment, but it was only a postponement of justice. He thought the owners would not be pleased at the evasion. Mr. Philbrick replied that if it was not a legal rate there could be no obligation for any one to pay it, and therefore there was no reason for the chairman's last observation as to evasion. Mr. Gatward stated that every Dissenter in the parish offered to give double what the rate came to, if it was made a voluntary one.

A CRUEL CHURCH-RATE SEIZURE.—On Thursday and Friday last, a crusade against Church-rate defaulters was commenced. On Thursday the goods of James Clarke were seized. In reference to this case, the Broseley Anti-Church-rate Society has issued a placard, of which the following is a *verbatim* copy:—"Cruel distraint for Church-rates by the Broseley churchwardens, William Nicholas, Esq., and Humphrey Charlton, Esq.—On Thursday last, a distraint was made on the goods of James Clarke, a poor labouring man, with a wife and seven children, a bed-ridden mother eighty-three years of age! and an imbecile sister forty-three years of age! the two last receiving parish relief. The amount of Church-rate was 1*s*. 3*d*., for which and costs the above-named churchwardens have caused to be taken the following articles: clock, oak chest, oak cupboard, two tables, seven chairs, tea-tray, looking-glass, smoothing-iron, and straw mattress, thereby emptying the poor man's house, and causing some of the children to lie on the floor the following night." The *Birmingham Daily Post* has the following remarks on this scandalous work:—

In the unobtrusive form of a short paragraph of district news, there was published in this journal yesterday a piece of intelligence which ought to make every Englishman whose Christianity is that of the Established Church blush with shame.

The facts of the case are so monstrous that it seems difficult to believe them to have been correctly reported, but on that head we are afraid there is no room whatever for doubt. It is, we are assured, unquestionably true that on Thursday, the 10th instant, the churchwardens of Broseley levied a distraint on the goods of James Clarke, a poor labouring man, for the non-payment of the sum of one shilling and threepence halfpenny which the said James Clarke was called upon to contribute towards certain expenses which are annually incurred by the congregation that worships in Broseley parish church; that the articles seized in satisfaction of this claim consisted of a clock, an oak chest, an oak cupboard, two tables, seven chairs, a tea-tray, a looking-glass, a smoothing iron, and a straw mattress; and that Clarke has a family of seven children, who, together with his wife, his bedridden mother, aged eighty-three, and his idiotic sister, aged forty-three, constitute the household which has thus been deprived, at an inclement season of the year, of so many humble but to them valuable necessities, in order that the Church of the



State may profit to the munificent amount of fifteen-pence halfpenny.

Such being the facts, what need be said in the way of comment? Surely nothing more than a simple narrative of the case is necessary in order to excite from all the community, except perhaps some little clique at Broseley, an indignant cry of "Shame." Will any Church Defence Association have the face to defend this unexampled instance of ecclesiastical freebooting?

The churchwardens of Broseley, for example, could not have hit upon a better device than that of seizing upon the chattels of poor Clarke, if they had been desirous of exhibiting to the world how intolerably oppressive the Church-rates might be made. Had they determined on sparing this man's property, even at the cost of themselves contributing in his name the sum of sevenpence three farthings each, they might have gathered in their year's levy without causing any one to take special notice of their proceeding. They resolved to do otherwise—to sell up the poor man—to strip his cottage of its humble furniture—to despise the wants of his bed-ridden mother, his idiotic sister, his wife, and his seven little children—to make a clean sweep of whatever they could lay their hands upon so long as the demands of the Church remained unsatisfied—and for that we consider them entitled to be ranked among the staunchest enemies of Church-rates, for they have shown beyond contradiction that the power of enforcing such imposts is capable of being so excessively abused that no churchwarden ought any longer to be entrusted with the right of exercising it.

#### ECCLIASTICAL MEASURES BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

—The committee on Mr. Dodson's Tests Abolition (Oxford) Bill has been postponed till Wednesday, June 1st. Mr. Dillwyn's motion for a "select committee to inquire how far the present distribution of endowments for religious purposes throughout Ireland may be so amended as most to conduce to the welfare of her Majesty's Irish subjects," stands for Tuesday, April 5th. Mr. Osborne will move an amendment on Mr. Dillwyn's motion. The second reading of Mr. Newdegate's Church-rates Commutation Bill is down for Wednesday, April 27. Sir Charles Douglas will move its rejection.

**THE TESTS ABOLITION (OXFORD) BILL.**—Several colleges and other public bodies petitioned in favour of this bill. The "Votes" of the House of Commons enumerate the following:—Manchester New College; Cheshunt College; North Wales Independent College; North Wales Baptist College; Spring-hill College, Birmingham; Dissenting Deputies; Nonconformists of Devon and Cornwall. Nearly all the petitions are printed in the Report of the Petition Committee.

**THE REV. T. BINNEY** has been seriously indisposed, but is now recovering.

**THE CONFIRMATION** of the new Bishop of Ely took place at Bow Church on Saturday with the usual ceremonies.

**THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON** was on Sunday unable to officiate in his spacious Tabernacle in consequence of an attack of illness of an inflammatory character.

**THE WESTMINSTER ABBEY SERVICES.**—The special evening services are to commence on the first Sunday after Easter. The sermon will be preached by Dean Stanley. Dr. Pusey has been invited by the dean to preach one of the sermons, but has declined.

**DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER.**—The Evangelical Alliance invite Christian parents in all countries to set apart Tuesday, the 12th of April next, for special united prayer for their children. It is suggested that in any services on that evening special reference should be made to the subject, and that it might be brought before congregations by ministers on the preceding Sunday. The committee of the Alliance also suggest that, while prayer is the chief object of the meetings, in the intervals of prayer and praise suitable portions of the sacred Scriptures should be read, and a few practical remarks on the responsibilities, duties, and encouragements of parents should be offered by ministers or experienced Christians. There will be special meetings on the subject, morning and evening, on the 12th of April, at Freemasons' Hall.

**CONVOCATION.**—We hear that the approaching session of the Southern Convocation in April is likely to be a very important one, for, in addition to the election of a new Prolocutor, and the discussion of the three important reports that have been presented, we believe that two eminent members of the Lower House will submit two important motions:—1. For the appointment of a committee to consider what steps can be taken for more effectually ensuring greater confidence in the orthodoxy of the clergy. 2. As to whether it is not advisable to remove entirely the Church element from the Judicial Committee, leaving it the final court of appeal on the simple legal issue as to whether a clergyman has so far transgressed the Church's law as to be deprived of his benefice; but at the same time laying down that the condemnation of books and opinions (though not their authors) is the duty of the Convocations.—*John Bull.*

**A CLERGYMAN ON CHURCH AND STATE.**—The *Devonport Independent* contains a report of a sermon delivered at Christ Church, Plymouth, by the Rev. Mr. Bullen, on Sunday week, from the 6th chap. of St. John, the 63rd verse: "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing." In the course of his sermon the preacher said they were going to have a meeting in that town for the separation of Church and State. He was one of those who would really like to see the Church severed from the State. Some had predicted that that would be politically the ruin of England; down the Church would go at once. He (the Rev. Mr. Bullen), however did not think so; he was rather inclined to believe that it would be the

greatest blessing that could befall the Church. (Many persons in the congregation were here observed to shake their heads.) But that, of course, was his individual opinion. They who argued to the contrary loved Church and State more than he did, and he did not hesitate in telling them so.

**ANTI-ANNUITY-TAX DEMONSTRATION IN EDINBURGH.**—On Friday night the Dissenters of Edinburgh had another great and enthusiastic meeting in Brighton-street Church to protest against the infamous Clerico-Police Act and the persecutions inflicted under it. The body of the capacious church was densely filled, and many had to stand at the doors and in the aisles unable to obtain sitting room. Two-thirds of those present were in the opinion of the chairman and others—declared at the meeting—electors of the city. Mr. Stott presided, and the meeting was addressed in able and eloquent speeches by the Rev. Professor Kirk, who exposed the immoralities associated with the whole structure and administration of the act; the Rev. David McEwan, who pointed out the injuries inflicted on religion and the Established Church by the outrages perpetrated in the name of the act, and administered a suitable rebuke to those shepherds in his own church and in other Dissenting churches who allow their "sheep" and "lambs" to be fleeced by civic and ecclesiastical powers, without coming forward to protect them or even to manifest the slightest sympathy in their favour; and by Ex-Councillor Menelaws, who described the peculiar position in which he is placed in having both the ministers of the Canonate and the ministers of the city storming his bankers and threatening the rousing of his goods. The speeches were loudly cheered and the resolutions enthusiastically carried, the most intense satisfaction being evinced as the speakers pointed out the folly and absurdity of those who paid the tax and protested against it, as if any number or quality of protests were cared a straw about by those in power and in receipt of the cash. Tremendous cheering occurred when Mr. Stewart, at the request of the chairman, presented himself as the next victim to be immolated at the shrine of the city clergy; and when he indicated the measures he designed to adopt "to improve the occasion" at twelve o'clock on Monday.—*Caledonian Mercury* of Saturday.

### Religious Intelligence.

#### KENT CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The spring meetings of the Kent Association were held on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 8th and 9th inst., at the Congregational chapel, Bromley. There was a very good attendance both of ministers and laymen, and the proceedings excited considerable interest.

On Tuesday evening a sermon was preached by the Rev. T. Blandford, of Herne Bay, on "The hope of the church in relation to the conversion of the world. Is it the richer manifestation of the Spirit in connection with existing agencies, or the personal advent of Christ?" After the public service the Lord's Supper was observed, when the Rev. G. Verrall, the former pastor of the church, presided, and an address was delivered by the Rev. James Samson, of Sheerness.

On Wednesday morning a meeting was held for business and conference. The chair was taken by the Rev. E. Bolton, pastor of the church. After devotional exercises and the transaction of the ordinary business of the association, the Rev. G. L. Herman, of Chatham, read an able and valuable paper, the subject of which was, "Thoughts for the present times." A free conference followed the reading of this paper, and subsequently the friends dined together.

A public meeting was held in the chapel in the evening, F. J. Sargood, Esq., in the chair, and considering the inclement state of the weather the attendance was very good. In the course of his opening remarks, the chairman said he believed that the sentiment uttered by a divine of the present day was applicable to them, that they wanted indoctrinating with more of church principles; but he (Mr. Sargood) did not mean the church principles of this or that denomination, but principles based upon the Bible as contra-distinguished from any narrow circumscribed views that might be taken; and those engaged in that portion of the work as lay agents should be a class of men prepared to take those broad principles, to throw away everything of a sectarian character, and seek rather to bring men within the influence of the spirit of the Bible itself than to proselytise them for any particular denomination. Their lay agents should be men to go from place to place, and from house to house, talking to men in the quietude of their own habitations, and seeking to bring the sweet influence of the Gospel of Christ to their hearts. The Rev. H. Baker, of Lewisham, after describing the objects of the association, stated the work they were engaged in. For some years the association had only granted small aid of a local character, but latterly they had been able to increase it, and there were no fewer than eleven churches and preaching stations in the county receiving regular aid, in some cases, very substantial help from the association. At Sevenoaks very recently they had opened a church, which they hoped and believed was the commencement of a cause which, in a few years, would not only be self-sustaining, but be in a position of respectability and influence amongst the churches of the county. A similar effort to that was also about being made in the thickly populated parish of Plumstead, through the liberality of S. Morley, Esq. In those efforts they were falling in with what, evidently, was the spirit of the times. Mr. G. M.

Hinds, Ramsgate, next delivered a most forcible address on "Congregational home missions, and their claims on the churches." The association wanted not only their sympathies and their prayer; but it wanted also their contributions. He found that there were about sixty associated churches in the county, and from the last year's report he saw that the income from the whole was only about 600*l.* That was not enough to expect from that rich and fertile and prosperous county; more especially when he reminded them that that amount included some noble donations. He hoped that the income would be raised that year to 1,000*l.*, which was not an unreasonable sum to expect. The Rev. J. R. Thompson, M.A., of Tunbridge Wells, next followed on "Home missionaries and lay evangelists; how to get and how to train them." Mr. Thompson related his connection with the college at Manchester, now removed to Nottingham, and said that during a period of three years he had received about two hundred letters, from persons of all grades, on the subject of admission to the institution to be trained for the ministry. The Rev. G. Martin, of New Cross, in his address on "Sunday Schools, considered as a branch of home mission work," said that such schools benefited the church itself, and that no church was complete unless it was supplemented by a Sunday-school, because it developed the Christian activity of its members. The concluding address was delivered by the Rev. C. Burnett, of Sheerness, on "The love of Christ in its relation to efforts of Christian usefulness."

#### LEICESTER—NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL.

The services connected with the opening of Oxford-street Chapel in this town took place on Tuesday last. The chapel was well attended in the morning, and filled to overflowing in the evening. Most of the Dissenting ministers of the town, and several from different parts of the county, were present. Two eloquent sermons were preached by the chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, the Rev. Enoch Mellor, M.A., of Liverpool; the collections amounted to the sum of 142*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* This chapel has been built for the use of the congregation recently attending the Harvey-lane Chapel, so intimately associated with the memory of Robert Hall. The cost of the whole, including school-rooms in the rear, will be about 4,000*l.* The place does credit to the architects, Messrs. Shenton and Baker, who have studiously carried out the wish of the minister and the congregation intending to worship in it. It is built in a free rendering of the Lombardic style. "It is," says the *Leicester Mercury*, "a decided ornament, as well as a useful structure, erected in a neglected but improving part of our town." Between the services there was a cold collation at the George Hotel, which was well attended. The Mayor (Geo. Baines, Esq.) presided, and speeches were delivered by the chairman, the Revs. T. Stevenson, — Ford (Wesleyan), E. Mellor, J. Lomas (Wesleyan), C. Coe (Unitarian), R. W. Wood (the pastor), T. Mays, J. D. Williams, of the Chapel-building Society, &c. In the course of a statement Mr. Wood said that the chapel would hold about 1,000 persons, and the schools accommodate some 750 children. They had been for some time dwelling in Harvey-lane, and the people came to the conclusion that it was a sort of monastic cell, from which it was high time to remove. They knew they had money to build, and they determined to employ their money and use their energies and he did hope the church would prosper and be blessed. They selected that spot because they thought it to be a neglected district, not because they found their friends were located there. Finding the district absolutely without a chapel, and a growing population rising on every hand, they thought it would be a good place to build, and they still thought so. Some of their friends had complained that the neighbourhood was not so respectable as it ought to be; but nothing was so adapted to promote respectability as the Gospel, and he hoped the time was not far distant when the houses which were disapproved of would come down.

The speech of Mr. Mellor, at the dinner above referred to, touched upon several topics of great public interest. We therefore quote it entire from the *Leicester Mercury* :—

The Rev. E. Mellor remarked that the Mayor concluded his observations with the expression, "the kingdom which is not of this world." If it were not for his faith in that expression he should not be a Christian—he should not be a minister—and above all things not a minister among the Protestant Dissenters. He was an Independent—(applause)—partly, he was not ashamed to confess, because his parents were Independents, and because all his reading and thinking seemed to point in the direction of Independency as all things considered the best system of ecclesiastical government under the sun. (Applause.) They must allow, however, that others might differ from them honestly, and in respecting the convictions of others they would have learnt the highest lesson which Christianity had to teach. Whatever he might say, he hoped they would interpret in the light of that general ruling principle. (Hear, hear.) He could assure them that the more he saw of the working of things in the world in general and in their own country in particular, the deeper became his faith in the principle with which he started, and he had had more especially impressed on his mind in the last few weeks, that if there were any religion which was divine in the world, its divinity pledged it to the perpetuity which neither man nor devils could ever destroy—(Hear, hear)—and that what, ever came in contact with it as a helper which was not spiritual in character could not in the long run be a helper, but a hindrance, and finally a principle of corruption that could not possibly do otherwise than eventually injure the system they were designed to



support. (Applause.) If anyone was disposed to believe that there was necessity for religion in a Prime Minister he should not point to examples in the past, and still less in the present. (Applause.) There was no religion but that which was a religion of thought, of conviction, of feeling, and of action. That which was not founded in these was a pretence and a sham, and up to the extent that it existed left the impression that religion had a breadth of diffusion which in reality it did not possess. He had no hope of the triumph of Christianity except that which was found in the truth and the spirit which was to render the truth effective. He claimed, as a Dissenting minister and a loyal subject of her Majesty, religious equality. (Applause.) With less than that he should not be satisfied. (Hear, hear.) Until he had that he should continue to demand it. (Hear, hear.) He should contend that no discourtesy, social or political, should be put upon any man because of his religious faith. (Applause.) Many things contained in the principle of religious equality had already been conceded to them. The time was when Mr. Baines could not have been Mayor of Leicester. That was one step, but they were not satisfied with that, and it was said that this was the danger of conceding to them. Really they had given them nothing, they had demanded and they had won it. A few days ago he was reading an admirable Charge in many respects delivered by the Bishop of Oxford, which exhibited a somewhat retrograde tendency towards Dissenters. The two cardinal obstacles to the diffusion of State-Churchism were said to be beershops and Dissent. (A laugh.) That the Bishop was capable of giving such a classification was not complimentary to his logic, of which he never supposed Oxford guilty; but they had no one so capable of substituting logic by something else which had nothing of logic about it. He agreed with the Bishop that Dissent was a strong obstacle, but could not sympathise with him in his sorrow at that conviction; because the Dissenters were still, as they had been for the last 150 or 200 years, the salvation of the country politically or religiously. (Applause.) He wished they had had Samuel of Oxford there that day; he could at all events have heard that they were loyal, and that went a long way with him, for no episcopal lungs could have more lustily sung, "God save the Queen." They were told by the Archdeacon of Coventry that Dissent was the centre of disloyalty in this country. He had ventured to send the Archdeacon a few considerations against such a statement, but he had not retracted it; and he now ventured to affirm that no greater falsehood was ever uttered by any man. He believed that in case of any invasion or insult to the Queen, there were no arms that would rise up with more stalwart power and energy to resist invasion or avenge insult than the arms of Dissenters. (Applause.) They believed, moreover, that at the present time the Dissenting body was the most consistent body in the country. He was told the other day that there were as many Dissenters in the Church of England as out of it, and he partly agreed with it, for the recent decision of the Privy Council had brought before them a startling result. If he were an Evangelical clergyman in the Church, he should find it difficult to ascertain the precise bearings of his spiritual navigation, when he found that Williams and Wilson could write such things as they had written, and that it could be declared that there was nothing inconsistent in all they had written with the formularies of the Church. He was certainly astonished to discover that there was such a wonderful elasticity in the creeds of the Church. It was the Gorham case over again, both parties were right though wide as the Poles asunder; so that the Establishment was like a house which had a mirror opposite the entrance, in which each man as he entered saw his own countenance reflected. Many of the Broad-Church people were now vindicating the idea of having an Establishment which should allow everything to be taught that the inhabitants of the country liked, and that they should have an elastic scheme of religion which should allow every man to be represented there. That was very well if religion was to be a matter of accommodation. If religion was to be a matter of truth, that was a very different thing. (Hear, hear.) If an establishment was designed to supply the people with everything they might like, then the principle was perfectly correct, but if it was designed instead to be an expression of the Divine idea of what hope and salvation were, then he protested against it with every power that he possessed. (Applause.) It used to be the rule that two opposing things could not be true, but now came out that something was equal to nothing. The Methodists, the Independents, the Baptists, the Unitarians, any Dissenting body in the country, was infinitely more consistent than an Establishment which allowed the present state of things to continue. The Evangelical clergy were getting very uneasy about it. Nothing else could have brought together such opposites in some respects as Dr. Pusey, of Oxford, Mr. Miller, of Birmingham, and Dr. McNeill, of Liverpool, in the declaration that had been lately issued. But they who reviled Dissenters as disloyal, were now repudiating the decision of the Queen with regard to her own Church. They had no religion in the Church except as by law established and by law interpreted, and therefore for these gentlemen to protest was utterly useless. If these things were done by the teachers of religion, what might be done by the learners? they might "better the instruction." The laymen of the Church of England, unless he greatly misunderstood them, especially the "Christly, Godly men," would begin to ask how far they were implicated morally in the effects of a system which was made to propagate under sanction of law such doctrines as had been propagated. Some wondered how he could be out of the Church, and he wondered how they could be in. He was prepared, when any clergyman would accept the challenge, to go back to the New Testament, not St. Basil nor St. Ignatius, for the purpose of contesting whether they were representatives of the High-Church party, namely, the Apostles, or not. The question was, whether there was in the New Testament one scintilla of evidence for the doctrine of prelacy or a Church Establishment as now developed. He said there was not, and it required a great deal of charity to excuse all the *hauteur*, all the assumption, and all the contempt, with which Dissenters were in the habit of being regarded by those men with whom assertion was so much easier than proof. (Applause.)

**DEVONSHIRE-SQUARE CHAPEL, BISHOPSGATE-STREET.**—The Rev. W. T. Henderson, of Banbury, has accepted a very cordial and unanimous invitation from the church worshipping at Devonshire-street Chapel

to become their pastor, and will enter upon his ministerial engagements the second Sunday in April.

**PUTNEY-UNION CHURCH.**—The Rev. J. T. Gale, late of Darwen, Lancashire, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the church and congregation to become their pastor.

**BUCKINGHAM CHAPEL, PIMLICO.**—An urgent and unanimous invitation has been given by this church to Mr. W. H. Jellie, of Hackney College, to become its pastor, which he has accepted, and will commence his ministry on April 17th, the anniversary of the chapel.

**FINCHLEY.**—The Rev. S. Wardlaw McAll, M.A., of Townley-street Chapel, Macclesfield, has accepted a unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the church at Finchley, where it is expected that he will commence his labours early in April. Mr. McAll's medical advisers have strongly recommended the change on the ground of health; at the same time his removal will be much regretted by a united and faithfully-attached congregation.

**SHREWSBURY—CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, SWAN-HILL.**—On Thursday, March 10, a testimonial was presented to the Rev. William Thorp, this being the twentieth year of his ministry in the above place of worship. It consisted of a purse, containing one hundred and eleven sovereigns.

**THE REV. G. W. CONDER.**—This highly esteemed minister is about to leave Leeds. He has received invitations from Congregational churches at Clapham, near London, and Cheetham-hill, Manchester, but has not yet decided which of the two to accept. We believe Mr. Conder's farewell sermon at Belgrave Chapel will be preached some time in April. —*Leeds Mercury.*

**BRADFORD—HORTON-LANE CHAPEL.**—The anniversary services of the Sunday-schools belonging to Horton-lane Chapel took place on Sunday; the Rev. James Hamilton, D.D., of London, preaching in the morning and evening. The Rev. Dr. J. R. Campbell, the pastor of the church, addressed the scholars in the afternoon. Connected with Horton-lane Chapel there are four Sunday-schools, containing about 1,300 scholars, taught by 140 teachers. The collections amounted to the noble sum of 126*l.* 14*s.*

**BLAENAVON.**—On the 13th inst. the English Independent church held their first anniversary in the Town Hall here, when the following ministers officiated: in the morning, the Rev. P. W. Darnton, of Newport; in the afternoon and evening, the Rev. Thomas Hanover. The congregations were numerous and the collections liberal. On the 22nd of March, 1863, an English church was formed. The following ministers officiated on the occasion: Revs. Thomas Griffiths, the Welsh Independent minister; J. Jenkins, Pontypool; G. Thomas, Usk, &c. During this time the church has flourished, prosperity has attended its efforts. The number of members at present is forty, the average attendance about 250, and the Sunday-school about 120. The church has been able to sustain itself and pay its supplies. The great lack is the want of a chapel, and the friends entertain a sanguine hope that a place will ere long be erected.

**CAISTOR, LINCOLNSHIRE.**—The Congregationalists in this place are putting forth renewed vigour, under the able ministrations of their excellent pastor, the Rev. Robert Kerr, who assumed the pastorate about a year ago; during which time seventeen have been added to the church, and a temperance society, a Band of Hope, and a penny savings bank have been established in the town, mainly through Mr. Kerr's labours. The chapel was built in 1842, and owes its existence chiefly to the influence and kindness of the late lamented Sir Culling Eardley, who contributed 350*l.* towards its erection. A debt of 327*l.* remains as an incumbrance upon the energies of the church, and they have resolved to remove it if possible. An appeal, thus far, to friends far and near, has resulted in 140*l.* being promised and subscribed. The object is worthy of the aid of the benevolent. —*Hull Times.*

**ROCHDALE—JUBILEE OF PROVIDENCE CHAPEL.**—It will be fifty years in June next since the late Rev. John Ely preached his first sermon in the above place of worship, which had then been recently opened. He received and accepted a call to the pastorate, and for a period of nearly twenty years laboured with great success. He then removed to Leeds. A few weeks ago the friends held a meeting at which it was resolved to celebrate the jubilee; a committee of management was appointed, and on the evening of March 9th they again met, when plans for extensive alterations and improvements in the internal arrangements of the building were adopted. It is also intended to place a marble tablet in the chapel to the memory of Mr. Ely. The entire cost will be about 350*l.* The sum of 250*l.* has been promised already by friends connected with the place. In a week or two the chapel will be closed, to be reopened on the second Sunday in June, when the first of a series of jubilee services and meetings will be held. During the alterations the congregation will assemble for worship in the large school-room.

**CONGLETON, CHESHIRE.**—On Monday evening, March 14th, at the Assembly-room, Congleton, a public tea-meeting was held, to present a purse of gold (180*l.*) to the Rev. J. Moore, minister of the Independent congregation at Congleton, and a portrait of the rev. gentleman to Mrs. Moore. The testimonial was the result of a subscription, commenced by Mr. Moore's own congregation, but enlarged by the addition of subscribers of all denominations, especially members of the Church of England, as a tribute to the personal worth and peaceful Christian character of the rev. gentleman, as well as to the service he has rendered to religion by his translation of parts of the Holy Scripture into

the Tahitian tongue. Among the general subscribers were the lord of the manor, the high steward, the deputy steward, the Mayor, and all the justices of the borough, and several of the neighbouring county magistrates. James Bateman, Esq., F.R.S., of Biddulph Grange, occupied the chair, and presented the testimonials, which were suitably acknowledged by Mr. Moore. Addresses were subsequently delivered by the Rev. J. Oakden (a clergyman), who expressed his strong sense of Mr. Moore's services in connection with the Bible Society; Mr. Hadfield; Rev. R. H. Smith, of Hanley; Mr. Moorhouse, the town clerk, and other gentlemen.

**CARDIFF.**—A large and interesting tea-meeting was held on Wednesday evening, at the Mount Stuart Chapel, Mount Stuart-square, to celebrate the formation of a new English Congregational Church under the pastoral superintendence of the Rev. J. Davies, the minister of the above place of worship. The Rev. J. Waite, B.A., of Harley-street Chapel, presided. He stated that there had been services and a Sunday-school in a large room in Patrick-street, over which he had presided, but which it was desirable should now take an independent position. Mr. Davies, the pastor of Mount Stuart Chapel, had undertaken the presidency, and there would now be Sunday morning and evening services in Patrick-street, a regular supply of ministerial labour provided for, and a church formed. The Rev. J. Davies then delivered an address on the necessity there was for increased English places of worship in the Principality, and the obligations of Congregationalists in connection therewith. He referred to the commencement of this new cause with great pleasure. The Rev. Mr. Davies, of Merthyr, spoke of the great importance of commencing a work like this. Mr. Ward addressed some observations on the share which young Christians ought to take in evangelistic work, after which Messrs. Pady, Bishop, Atkins, G. Sully, T. Webber, and D. Lewis addressed the meeting.

**TUDDENHAM, SUFFOLK—OPENING A NEW CHAPEL.**—For nearly sixty years the friends in connection with Tacket-street Chapel, Ipswich, have conducted Divine worship in this village, and have also established a Sunday-school. During the past twenty-five years the various services have been held in a room which has long been found too small to accommodate the congregations assembling there; and it was at length determined to erect a more commodious and suitable building. On Friday afternoon last, March 18th, the new chapel was opened, when the Rev. Eliezer Jones, of Ipswich, preached a very interesting and instructive sermon from Gen. xxviii. 17, "This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." At the close of the service the friends sat down to tea, but the number was so great that it was found impossible to accommodate all, and Mr. Neve, of Tuddenham, kindly threw open his house for the reception of many of the friends. A public meeting was held in the evening, at which the Rev. E. Jones presided. After prayer had been offered by Mr. Drummond, the chairman addressed the friends, congratulating them on the erection of the present commodious building. Mr. G. R. Tunmer briefly narrated the origin of the cause and its history to the present time, and bore honourable testimony to the sympathy and co-operation rendered by friends connected with other denominations. The total expenses incurred in converting the building standing on the present site into a commodious chapel amounted, he stated, to 48*l.*, towards which the owner of the property, Mr. Finch, had contributed 10*l.*; and the friends connected with the chapel in the village also had liberally contributed towards the ornamental embellishments of the building. Addresses were afterwards delivered by Mr. R. L. Everett, of Rushmere; Mr. Neve, of Tuddenham; Mr. Barker, of Withesham; and Messrs. E. Grimwade, W. Clarke, of Ipswich, &c.; and the meeting, which was crowded in every part, was closed with singing and prayer.

## Correspondence.

### NONCONFORMIST CHURCHES IN PARIS.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

DEAR SIR,—I take the liberty of referring to a passage in this week's "Ecclesiastical Notes"; the passage I allude to runs as follows:—"While the English Wesleyan, the Congregational, and the French churches, and especially the former, for want of pulpit power or scholastic ability, exhibit a meagre array of empty benches, Athanasie Coquerel's church was filled to overflowing." I cannot exactly understand whether your words "especially the former" are intended to apply to the empty benches, or the want of pulpit power and scholastic ability in the said church; indeed, I think they may apply to either or both of those contingencies at the option of the reader. I have spent the greater portion of the last year in Paris, and I have constantly attended the Protestant places of worship in that city. I am quite aware of the great and deserved popularity of M. A. Coquerel, and I deeply deplore his dismissal from the pulpit of the Oratoire; but surely it is needless to praise M. Coquerel at the expense of his Protestant colleagues. M. Coquerel has always addressed *French* audiences, and the gentlemen you more particularly refer to, *English* ones; you will readily understand that this fact alone must render any comparison between them a simple impossibility. Everyone knows that the English Wesleyan Church in Paris is quite a new building, only opened about a year ago, and in common with the other Nonconforming churches, can but rarely boast of its crowded benches; I am sorry that it should be so, but I am quite certain that no Protestant resident in Paris would attribute this fact to any deficiency on the part of its excellent pastor. All who know Mr. Gibson know that he is a thorough gentleman, in the broadest acceptance of the word; that he possesses very considerable pulpit power, and that he is, withal, an accomplished scholar. In Paris Dissenting chapels are not fashionable



lounges, and are consequently but poorly attended. It is considered more correct to attend an Episcopalian place of worship, and you are doubtless aware that the Episcopalian church in the Rue d'Aguesseau is uniformly crowded.

I think that you have unintentionally, because ignorantly, cast an undeserved slur on Mr. Gibson, and I hope you will allow me through your columns to correct it. I am myself a member of the Society of Friends, and cannot have any denominational feeling whatever in the matter.

Yours very respectfully,

JOHN E. LITTLEBOY.

Hunton Bridge, near Watford, March 19, 1864.

Our correspondent's grammatical criticism must pass for what it is worth; but how he could assume that the word "former" applied to empty benches, when the empty benches had not been referred to when the word was used, neither we nor any of our readers are likely to comprehend. Nor do we see that there were any "contingencies" at issue. Mr. Littleboy, however, gives proof that he understands the meaning of the simple sentence which he quotes. We had no desire, in writing it, gratuitously to disparage either the Congregational or the Wesleyan Churches in Paris, but to draw attention to the fact that while they were not popular, M. Coquerel's preaching was intensely popular. We do not attribute this popularity to heterodoxy, but to ability. We regret that similar ability does not exist in the English churches. It is, perhaps, impossible, under existing circumstances, that it should. If every English sect must have a church in Paris, it is not at all probable that any of those churches will be either full or successful. The sects of England have historical relations peculiar to England, and it is questionable whether it is wise to attempt to transplant each of them to a foreign soil. Paris may afford good nourishment to a Protestant Church, but it may not afford good nourishment to several varieties of Protestant Churches. Would it not be possible effectively to sustain one good Nonconformist church in Paris that would be unsectarian? It ought to be, if it is not. Mr. Littleboy refers to the fact that the Wesleyan church in Paris is but a new one; but he should be aware that, although the building is new the congregation is old, and that it vacated the chapel now occupied by the Congregationalists to take possession of their present place of worship. We have no doubt of the excellencies of Mr. Gibson, we only regret that they are not better appreciated, and we do not see how they are likely to be. Ability may be, as we have implied, a necessity, but adapt-ability is also a necessity. Are all our English "isms" equally adaptable to France? Cannot a Wesleyan, for instance, be satisfied for a Sunday or two with anything but Wesleyanism on Parisian ground? If not, he must take the consequences in gratifying his personal or sectarian sympathies at the expense of his religion and his principles. We thank our correspondent, however, for his letter, and are sure that all our readers will admire the spirit which has dictated it.—*Ed. Nonconformist.*

#### THE STATE CHURCH AS A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In the *Nonconformist* of last week the able writer of the "Ecclesiastical Notes" suggested a work that I have frequently thought would be of immense value in tending to bring on a settlement of the unscriptural and arrogant claims of the Established Church of this land to be the sole religious teacher of the people. The suggestion to which I refer is contained in the following words of March 2:—

"A wide review of the history of the State-Church of this kingdom would show that every virtue of a Church has been tested in her, and that in every instance she has faltered before the temptation, sacrificing all for the sake of a titled and privileged constitution."

Again, in the "Notes" of the 9th, I find the same idea expressed, though with relation to the Church's faithlessness in another direction:—

"The practical heathenism of large spots in the metropolis, as well as elsewhere, is the direct result of the Establishment. The mass of sin by which we are surrounded is, we believe, mainly to be traced to the indifference and apathy of the Church of the past and the present, and the opposition which she offered to the efforts of others. While exhibiting illustrations of Christianity which excited the scorn of the world and the contempt of the infidel, she did all in her power to frustrate the endeavours of Dissenters."

Now, Sir, I have long felt that this tremendous charge against the English Establishment is as true as it is tremendous, and I have again and again wished, and in conversation have expressed the wish to my friends, that some writer thoroughly qualified for the work would set himself patiently, honestly, and laboriously to make out the dreadful "writ of accusation." Take the English Church from the time when it stepped, scarcely more Protestant than its predecessor, into the livings and dignities vacated by the Romanists, expelled by the strong hand of Henry the Eighth, all through its career of worldliness and corruption down to the present time, and we shall find it ever the same—an enormously expensive system for the non-doing of spiritual work—efficient principally in preventing others from supplying its own grievous deficiencies in Christian service.

I have been accustomed to associate with such a contribution to the history of the failure of the State-Church system the name of Dr. Vaurban or of Dr. Halley; but if these eminently qualified historians should not give any indication of an intention to deal with this portion of ecclesiastical history, I venture to express the hope that the writer to whom your readers are indebted for his vigorous "Ecclesiastical Notes" will take upon himself to lay before the English public the abundant proofs that research will supply of his own assertion that the practical heathenism of a large portion of this country is the direct result of the Establishment.

The thinking portion of the community is now, it cannot be doubted, greatly occupied by the anomalous condition of the English Church, and such a work as has been suggested would tend in no insignificant measure to bring on the separation of the Church which has so failed in discharging its sacred functions, from its mischievous and degrading subserviency to the State.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Birmingham, March 15, 1864.

H. W.

#### THE UNION OF THE U.P. AND FREE CHURCHES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Notwithstanding the opinion of your correspondent "Union" to the contrary, I cordially endorse your sentiments as to the impossibility of such a union taking place at the present time. I am not aware that either section of the present U.P. Church, at the union, put forth any such manifesto as that now made public as the State-Church creed of the Free Church. True, there has not been any deliverance given by the U.P. either for or against the principle of a State endowment. But I query if you will find in the whole five hundred and odd congregations of the U.P. Church, fifty persons who are not decidedly opposed to receiving any endowment from the State, whether accompanied by State control or perfect freedom.

Indeed, Sir, your "State-pay men without State control" are more to be deprecated by far than those who are willing to submit to the control of Caesar, if they get Caesar's pay. And until our Free-Church friends advance a little further in the right direction, and duly appreciate the blessedness they have received from the adoption of a Scriptural voluntarism, we are constrained to say, though with some reluctance, "From too hasty consummation of this union, good Lord deliver us."

Yours respectfully,

A VOLUNTARY U.P.

#### CAUTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—A man who passes himself off as the Rev. W. De Lane, B.A., late of the Church of England, but whose right name I believe is Lane, is trying to get engagements for lectures, &c. He has recently endeavoured to obtain the pastorate of one of the churches in our county by testimonials, ostensibly from certain respected clergymen of the Established Church, which I have discovered to be sheer fabrications. I may add that the subjects of two of his lectures, as announced in bills now lying before me, are, "Lessons from the Streets; or, How to get on in the World," and "Photographs of Eminent Men and Women; or, the Shadow of Life." In some of these bills he announces himself as the Rev. William Lane, in others as the Rev. W. De Lane.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY BAKER.

Lewisham, March 18, 1864.

#### Foreign and Colonial.

##### THE DANO-GERMAN WAR.

ATTACKS ON DÜPPEL AND FREDERICIA.

A *Times* telegram, dated last Thursday, says that there had been heavy cannonading all along the lines. Düppel village and Tonbjerg position were taken by the Prussians, after an heroic resistance by the Danes. The position of Düppel was still unharmed. The writer adds:—

The numbers of the Prussians are always four to one. Their artillery has a range of three miles. A Danish colonel was killed to-day, and 70 wounded were brought in. The enemy's losses are severe. The Danish army is undaunted.

On Friday afternoon the Prussians obtained a few hours' armistice for the burial of the dead. On Saturday the cannonading was renewed from Broagerland without result. The Danes made no attempt to retake the village of Düppel and the village of Tonbjerg. On Sunday the allies cannonaded the south front of the position.

On Saturday the Prussians made a reconnaissance in force against Fredericia. The Crown Prince, Prince Albrecht, and the Prince of Hohenzollern were on the field. The Danish outposts of the entrenched encampment were driven into the fortress. During the reconnaissance sites were selected for the erection of batteries. A sharp fire was kept up by the Danes from the fortress and gunboats. There were some casualties on the German side. The same night the Danes made a sortie, which according to Prussian accounts was repulsed. On Sunday the bombardment commenced. The Prussian shots told very well, and the town was set on fire in several places. Several of the Danish guns were dismounted. Their fire was moderate and ineffectual. One Austrian was wounded. A Prussian despatch of Monday says:—

The bombardment of Fredericia continued all last night and to-day. The town caught fire in several places.

According to the statements of deserters about 200 men were killed and wounded in the fortress yesterday. We have had two men wounded since yesterday evening. The fire of the enemy has been almost entirely suspended to-day.

Six hundred Prussians have occupied the island of Femeren, and have taken the Danish garrison of ninety-six men prisoners.

The Austrians have made a requisition in Jutland for 5,000 oxen and 2,500 horses. Ten prefects of Jutland have been sent off to Prussia.

There has been a naval engagement between Danish and Prussian ships off Griefswald. The following is the report of the Danish Minister of Marine on the subject:—

On the afternoon of the 17th inst. the blockading squadron at Griefswald observed two Prussian steam corvettes and one paddle-steamer steering for the southward. The frigate *Sjælland*, accompanied by the rest of the squadron, made for the Prussian vessels. The engagement was commenced by the *Sjælland*, supported by the *Skjold* ship-of-the-line. After a fight lasting two hours the Prussians sailed off to Swinemunde. Six Prussian gunboats took part in the engagement. The loss on board the *Sjælland* was three killed and nineteen wounded. The Danish ships have not sustained any injury.

The Prussian gunboats safely reached Rugen, and

the two corvettes put into Swinemunde. The *Nymphe* lost two, and the *Arcona* three, killed. Nine men in all were wounded, including Lieutenant Berger, seriously.

It has been mutually agreed between Denmark and the German States that the embargo shall be removed from all vessels seized up to April 1st.

The Danish Government has directed the release of the Hanoverian ships under embargo in Danish ports. The Danish brig *Prethe*, from Leith to Barcelona, has been taken into Lisbon by the Austrian war-steamer *Schwarzenburg* and the gunboat *Seehund*.

The elections to the Lower House of the Riksgesam are concluded. All the members elected belong to the national party, which wishes for the continuation of the war. M. Hall, the ex-Premier, was elected unanimously. Bishop Monrad, the president of the council, who expressed himself favourable to pursuing the war, was elected by a large majority, four votes only being given against him.

The *Berlingske Tidende* of Copenhagen states that the intelligence received in London that Denmark accepts a conference on the basis of the treaty of 1852, without an armistice, is substantially correct.

The *Dagblad* violently attacks the Ministry on account of its accession to the proposed conference.

Fresh disturbances have taken place in Stockholm, and the military had to be called out to quell the riot. Several persons were arrested. Demonstrations in favour of Denmark were made before the residences of the Danish Minister and Prince Oscar, and in front of the Royal castle.

It is stated by a Paris paper that the new King of Bavaria has already received officially the representative of the Duke of Augustenburg.

#### FRANCE.

The Opposition have gained another signal triumph in Paris. In the first circumscription on Monday, M. Carnot, the Opposition candidate, obtained 13,554, M. Pinard 5,979, and M. Laboulaye 704 votes—M. Carnot being consequently elected. In the fifth circumscription M. Garnier Pagès, the Opposition candidate, was elected with 13,185 votes, M. Levy obtaining 5,381, M. Bac 350, and M. Tolain 380 votes.

The *Moniteur* says:—"Some journals announce the discovery of a new conspiracy against the life of the Emperor. This rumour is entirely unfounded."

There has been a debate in the Senate on a petition for laying an interdict on anti-religious publications. M. Langlais, the Government commissioner, censured certain publications, but recommended that the Chamber should adopt the proposal of the committee, to pass to the order of the day. This course was finally adopted by a large majority.

The *Daily News* says:—

We learn on good authority that the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha has altogether failed to attain the object of his journey to Paris. The Emperor refuses to encourage the claims of the Duke of Augustenburg to the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein. The Duke of Coburg leaves Paris to-morrow, greatly disappointed. At their interview, the Emperor professed the most pacific intentions towards Germany.

The *Mémorial Diplomatique* of Paris is full of particulars about the preparations of the Archduke Maximilian, whom it already styles Emperor of Mexico, to depart for his new dominions. Next Sunday he will receive the Mexican deputation finally at Miramar, and he will sail for Mexico as soon after as he can make convenient, first, however, paying a visit to the Pope and to the King and Queen of Spain. It is affirmed that the Archduke has declined to sanction the establishment of a bank of discount, circulation, and deposit in Mexico, under the title of the "Bank of Mexico," until the project shall have been submitted to the Council of State and the National Assembly. On arriving in Mexico the Archduke will, it is stated, make no stay at Vera Cruz, but will push on to the capital.

#### AUSTRIA.

The Emperor of Austria intends holding a grand review at Verona on the 24th inst., after which he would proceed to Miramar, to be present at the departure of the Archduke Maximilian for Mexico. Troops continue to arrive in Venetia, especially cavalry. Armaments continue, particular in Borgofo and Polesina. A new military route is being constructed between Vicenza and Bolzano.

The *Pays* states that Austria is about to reinforce the principal garrisons in Hungary. In Pesth, some evenings ago, a popular demonstration of a revolutionary character is described as having taken place.

#### ITALY.

The Pope has been seriously ill with erysipelas, but is now much better. The conflicts between the French soldiers and the Papal troops have continued. Several of the latter were killed. The Papal Government refuses to allow the French General to command both forces. He has seized some of the Papal soldiery. A letter from Rome says:—

The expectation and hope of war are as strong as ever, and that which is satisfactory is that there is an increasing disposition among all sections of the Liberal party to await the *mot d'ordre* of Victor Emmanuel. Of the great national party there never could be any doubt; but the party of action is more quiet, from which it may be inferred that it is satisfied with the assurances of the Italian Government, and that the latter, though resolved not to anticipate, is resolved to take advantage of the first favourable opportunity to strike a blow. The streets are now a little quieter than they were, in consequence of the not very legal arrest of about 100 suspected persons.

The 15th being the birthday of Victor Emmanuel,



blue lights were burnt on the steps of Trinita di Monte, near San Carlo, in the Corso, and various other places. The Carbonari were out, though in vain, in all directions.

The bill for equalising the land-tax has passed the Chamber of Deputies by a large majority.

#### GREECE.

The Ministry has resigned in consequence of a popular demonstration in Athens. A new Cabinet has been formed, of which M. Zairnis is the head and M. Cristides Minister of the Interior. The king was making preparations for a journey through the provinces.

#### AMERICA.

Advices from New York extend to March 9th.

It is reported positively that General Sherman returned to Vicksburg on the 3rd inst. Southern despatches state that he was at Canton on the 28th ult., badly harassed by the Confederate cavalry. He laid waste the country along his route. Doubtful rumours from New Orleans state that Polk defeated Sherman on the 16th ult. near Meridian, with severe loss—according to one report, with the loss of 15,000 men.

Admiral Farragut opened fire upon Fort Powell, on Dauphin Island, commanding Grant's Pass Channel to Mobile, at daylight on the 23rd ult. One Federal gunboat was sunk, but the result of the bombardment is unknown. The Confederate ram was lying under the guns of Fort Morgan, and reported to be preparing to attack the Federal fleet.

General Johnston was pressing the Federal lines in Tennessee. The Federals had withdrawn from Tunnel-hill to Ringold. Longstreet's cavalry hold Bull's Gap, fifty-six miles from Knoxville. His army was at Greenville. The Federals occupied Morristown, forty-two miles from Knoxville.

Confederate telegrams from Charleston of the 4th report that 1,250 Federal shells had been fired at the city during the previous fortnight, but without doing any damage. Blockade-running had been actively resumed, and an average of two vessels weekly had succeeded in reaching the city.

The Confederates, under General Pickett, were again threatening Newbern, Plymouth, and Washington, North Carolina. Four Confederate rams, plated with 10 inches of iron, and carrying four guns each, were to co-operate with the land forces.

It is reported that 20,000 Confederates are advancing from Texas towards Western Louisiana. Active dispositions were being made by the Federals to check this movement. The Federals were also sending reinforcements to hold Jacksonville, Florida, but have abandoned further expeditions into the interior.

The steamers S. P. Thomas, Titan, and Jollard, plying on Chesapeake Bay, were captured by the Confederates on the 5th inst., and taken up the Rappahannock.

One of the four Federal colonels said to have been killed in Kilpatrick's recent raid upon Lee's communications was a son of Admiral Dahlgren. On his dead body (according to the Richmond papers) were found an address and instructions to the soldiers under his command, which declared that when once they were in Richmond the city must be destroyed, and Jefferson Davis and his Cabinet killed. The following paragraph in the New York Tribune of the 6th inst. would indicate that these papers were pure fabrications:—

The President received a despatch from Fortress Monroe this afternoon, stating that Colonel Dahlgren, with his hundred men, had safely arrived within our lines. The colonel was at Fortress Monroe. The President and Secretary Stanton immediately called upon Admiral Dahlgren, to convey the glad tidings and congratulate him upon the safety of his gallant son.

Kilpatrick's loss is variously estimated at from 150 to 500 men.

General Meade has been summoned before the War Investigation Committee, in consequence of statements by General Sickles and Doubleday that Meade ordered a retreat of the Federal forces on the first day's battle at Gettysburg, and again on the second, which orders only failed to be executed through General Sickles' engaging the enemy. Meade is also accused of having expressed the opinion that the Confederates could not be conquered. Admiral Wilkes is also to be subjected to a court-martial for disobedience of orders and insubordination.

General Grant has arrived at Washington, and been received by the President, whom he met for the first time. It is supposed that he will assume the general direction of military affairs, and make important changes around Washington in connection with the plan for the fresh campaign.

The Confederate General Preston had left for Mexico, for the purpose of concluding a commercial treaty, based upon the mutual recognition of the Confederate and Mexican Governments.

The House of Representatives had passed the bill authorising Mr. Chase to anticipate the payment of interest on the public debt, but not to sell gold.

An amendment of the constitution of the State of New York, permitting soldiers to vote in camp, has been carried throughout the State by a large Republican majority.

The Bohemian has broken up, and is a total loss.

Gold has advanced at New York from 61 to 69 premium.

Mr. George Thompson, writing from America to a friend in Manchester, says:—

The masses here, of all classes, are for the utter extirpation of slavery. The Congress (both Houses) is Radical. I have the last and best information from

Washington, and can say that the vast majority of both Chambers are prepared to change the administration, if thorough measures be not adopted by the Cabinet. Do not be surprised (I am sure you would be delighted) to learn that a proclamation had been issued by the President, abolishing slavery universally. This is the demand of the people, and I trust will be the act of Abraham Lincoln.

It is stated that the barque Saxon will be surrendered by the Federal authorities, Judge Betts being about to give a decision which will lead to that result.

#### INDIA.

Sir John Lawrence has been suffering from indisposition. His Excellency has placed himself under the treatment of Dr. Tonnerre, a homœopathist.

The Governor-General gave his first public ball on the 15th of February, to which no natives of India were invited. This exclusion had given great offence to the native community.

It is said that Sir Hugh Rose has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted; and that Sir Robert Napier, K.C.B., is to succeed to the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian army. General Sir Neville Chamberlain has been compelled, by the state of his health, to leave India for a time.

The cotton crop of Western India will, it is feared, be short this year. Much more than the ordinary extent of ground has been taken into cultivation, but the yield per acre will, it is thought, be small, the crops in Guzerat especially having been blighted by the severe frost of an unusually cold winter, or spoiled by unseasonable rains.

#### PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

We have been requested to publish the following appeal:—

#### TO THE NONCONFORMIST LIBERALS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Gentlemen,—The present position of the question of Parliamentary Reform demands the immediate and anxious consideration of all earnest men. In 1859, this was the testing question on hundreds of hustings throughout the United Kingdom, and the result of the general election in that year was the return of a majority to Parliament, pledged to an extension of the suffrage immediately to a franchise of 64 in boroughs and 104 in counties; and the constituencies spoke out unmistakably in affirming these principles, and in condemnation of the specious measure introduced by the Derby Government, which was a most subtle contrivance to secure the whole representation of the county in the hands of the territorial interest by disfranchising all county electors resident within the limits of Parliamentary boroughs, and having a qualification for such borough. This specious scheme of a Tory Government was condemned by Parliament while that party held office, and a declaratory resolution, proposed by Lord John Russell, carried, to the effect that no present settlement of the Reform question would be satisfactory, which did not largely extend the franchise in the cities and boroughs of the kingdom.

On the declaration of Lord John Russell, that, as a member of a Liberal Government, he would be prepared to propose to Parliament a bill for improving the representation embodying these principles, and the majority of the Liberal party having accepted such principles, the appeal to the county was made with a clearly distinct perception of the issue put before the electors; and the result showed that the constituencies, at least, were sound at heart and in earnest on this question, notwithstanding that the power of the Conservative party was put forth.

After this result, there can be no doubt the Liberals of the kingdom looked with unhesitating confidence to an early realisation of their hopes, doomed before long to end in the passing of any Reform measure, and chiefly through the treachery of the people's representatives; and the foremost traitor of all was Lord Palmerston himself, in whom I believe there is no more reforming spirit than he possessed forty years ago, when he signed the declaration approving of the massacre of the Manchester patriots on the field of Peterloo in the year 1819.

It becomes the duty of all earnest Liberals out of Parliament to bestir themselves, and champion their own cause with a zeal that will no longer accept compromise or delay, a strength of resolution showing they are undismayed, and a vigour of action proving they will cease from no labour until they have wrung from a dominant and ruling class a full measure of political justice in the further enfranchisement of the people.

The work before us is formidable, the issues involved momentous, and the forces arrayed against us believe themselves securely entrenched behind all the ramifications of power, influence, and official connections; but the people need only rise in the full majesty of their combined and decisive action, in order to show, not merely that the Reform feeling is not dead, and that henceforth they will not be again hoodwinked by any Government or party on this question, and also to show that no Government shall exist, and that no Liberal party in Parliament shall assume to represent the people, who do not make the settlement of an immediate large extension of the franchise a *sine qua non* for their future action, and ground for our future support.

But then, it is said, the people are indifferent! Indeed! Who says so, but those whose "wish is father to the thought"? Were the people indifferent in 1859, after returning a clear majority to the Commons in favour of Reform? Were the people indifferent in all those long years past, when they held their mass meetings, and sent their petitions—not in scores, but in hundreds, and sent their requests, "humbly praying" for their rights, backed by thousands, or a thousand times ten thousand signatures, until at length the then Lord John Russell (who had not then learned to "rest and be thankful") of that day abandoned his "finality" doctrine, and, so far back as 1852, announced a Reform Bill? The people were not indifferent then, nor are they so now; but they are paralysed by the treachery of public men, the wreck of hopes blighted, and of promised pledges unfulfilled, by those whose character and position ought to

place them above suspicion or reproach, who have shown they can trifle with their own promise, made before high Heaven, and in the presence of thousands of living witnesses.

The people indifferent, indeed! Let those who think so go into any of our large towns, or before any of our large constituencies, and put the question in a distinct form, by resolution, before an indiscriminate assembly of my countrymen, whether they desire any further reform, and I feel sure of the answer. The people indifferent, forsooth! No, no, they are not so; but they have been cheated, trifled with, caajoled, and so thoroughly hoaxed by public men, that they have lost all confidence, and now only "bide their time."

To all earnest Nonconformist Liberals, therefore, I address this appeal, in the hope and with the aim that they will at once bestir themselves, get into organisation, and prepare to act in concert with their brethren in other parts of the kingdom. Two or three conferences of Reformers have been held, chiefly promoted by the men of Lancashire, Yorkshire, and some other parts of the kingdom; but now the time has come for the formation of a national organisation, under the name of a National Reform League. In this work no section of Liberals should stand aloof. East, west, north, and south should send their quota of steady adherents, and every district should have its committee or association, and be in communication with the centre of the movement.

Will not the Nonconformist Liberals of the United Kingdom help on this cause? Every ecclesiastical question in which they are interested, and every principle they hold dear as involving full and perfect religious equality, depends for its solution on the infusion of a thoroughly Liberal element into the House of Commons.

The present position then, of the Reform cause demands immediate action, persevering effort, and determined zeal. I have hope I shall not appeal in vain. Above all, let there be a numerous body of delegates sent to the Manchester Conference; and as far as possible let every separate district have its delegate there. The reactionary classes are closing their ranks, and rejoicing in the supposed disruption of the once great Liberal party. Let the Manchester Conference be such a demonstration as to dispel the illusion. Nonconformists of England, you can help to make it so.

I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

WM. HICKES,

19, Dickinson's-yard, Leeds.

Leeds, March 19, 1864.

#### WORKING CLASS EXHIBITION AT LAMBETH.

A very interesting meeting has held on Thursday at the Lambeth Baths, Westminster-road, for the distribution of prizes to the successful exhibitors at the Working Classes' Industrial Exhibition lately held in that building. The exhibition was set on foot by Mr. G. M. Murphy, assisted by the committee of the South London Working Men's Club, which holds its meetings at the baths, and consisted of objects of all kinds made by the working men of the district in their leisure hours. As an exhibition it had been most successful, both as to the number of exhibitors and the attendance. During the nine days it was opened it was visited by no less than 30,000 persons, and the money taken at the doors has been more than sufficient to cover all the expenses.

At the meeting on Thursday, the chair was taken by Mr. F. Morley, who opened the proceedings by calling on Mr. Murphy to read the report. After detailing the facts given above, he stated in addition that the entrance fees and the sale of a few small articles had realised the sum of 288*l.* The chairman congratulated the exhibitors on the success the scheme had met with. He felt assured from what he had seen that there was a large amount of latent intelligence and genius among the masses of the population, which only wanted bringing out by means like the present. The temperance movement had a great deal to do with the success of this exhibition, for the time which the men had hitherto spent in public-houses was now devoted to the designing and manufacture of the useful and artistic objects with which they were surrounded. Numerous well-meant attempts had been made to force on the working classes schemes with which they could have no sympathy, but the numerous articles exhibited, and the large number of visitors, plainly showed that this was a matter into which the working men threw themselves heart and soul. He concluded by urging the exhibitors to exert their influence on their friends, to induce them to join them in similar occupations.

Mr. WASHINGTON WILKS, in referring to the very gratifying experiment that had been made, said that the self-elevation of working people was promoted by the useful and thoughtful employment of their spare time. Habitual work did not require much thought, and it was only when a man employed himself at some occupation to which he was unaccustomed that his mind commenced to think and became expanded. The man who had ceased to frequent public-houses was not necessarily a good man; and to keep the mind in healthy condition he felt compelled to exercise it on some absorbing pursuit. The articles exhibited were not all first-rate, but they had not been made with the idea of being exhibited or rewarded. Now that the idea was fairly started he expected that when the men knew that the articles they made would be submitted to the scrutinising gaze of the public, and to the competition of their fellow-labourers, they would take infinitely more pains in perfecting them.

The Rev. NEWMAN HALL then addressed the meeting in a similar strain, and the CHAIRMAN proceeded to distribute the prizes, which consisted of a neat chromo-lithograph, framed and glazed, inscribed with the name of the exhibitor, and giving a short



description of the articles for which the award had been given. They were divided into four classes of merit—first-class, second-class, highly commended, and commended. When the whole had been distributed, the chairman said he had the satisfaction of informing them that their good example had already been followed, for the working men of the east end of London had commenced a similar industrial exhibition.

The proceedings concluded by the presentation of an address from the exhibitors to Mr. Murphy, the secretary. It was written by James Durrant, a tin-plate worker, in capital style and taste, and might as a literary effort put to shame many similar compositions which have emanated from more highly educated bodies. During the evening a large chamber organ, the work of Charles Meachim, a journeyman carpenter, performed a number of popular airs, and did good service in accompanying the hymns which were sung on the occasion.

#### CAPTAIN SPEKE'S PLANS FOR EAST AFRICA.

A meeting for the consideration of Captain Speke's plan for the suppression of the slave-trade, the instruction of the natives of Central Africa in the truths of Christianity, and opening a wild field for commerce in lands remarkably rich and fertile, was held on Tuesday, March 1, at the Marquis Townshend's, 6, Grosvenor-place. Captain Speke, who was warmly received, opened with remarks deprecating of the restriction of our efforts against the slave-trade to naval pressure along the coast. The propositions he had to make were the following:—

1. That our Government be petitioned to use its influence, conjointly with the Egyptian Government, to suppress the illegitimate tendencies of the White Nile trade, and for that purpose to establish an alliance with the Bari negroes at the foot of the cataracts above Gondokoro.
2. That our Government be petitioned, with other European Governments, to support a United Church Mission, to be sent, *vid. Luwakim*, on the Red Sea, to Berber, on the Nile, and thence up the Nile to the foot of the cataracts above Gondokoro, whence by land they would march up the Nile to the kingdom of Unyoro.
3. That the missionaries composing the mission be selected, not for the purpose only of preaching to the Wahama, but for general instruction, and that they shall be bound to be self-supporting after the first two or three years, or until a trade can be instituted with Egypt.
4. That when the King of Unyoro can see and understand that legitimate trade is the best thing for the maintenance of his government and the prosperity of his people, detachments of missionaries should be sent further on, to the kingdoms of Uganda and Karagoe.
5. That our Government be petitioned to make some arrangement with the Sultan of Zanzibar to put a stop to the slave-trade in his dominions.
6. That our Government be petitioned to recognise all persons convicted of taking part in slavery as conniving at murder, and to treat them accordingly, for without bloodshed slaves cannot be caught.
7. That our Government be petitioned to form a chain of negro depôts round the east and west sides of Africa, in sufficient numbers to half man our men-of-war, and yet to have a strong reserve at each depôt, who shall be educated and brought up for the holy purpose of liberating their fellow-countrymen from the thralldom of slavery; as it is obvious that the great sum of money now spent with a view to suppress slavery was doing more harm than good.
8. That, as much as possible, negroes should be educated and employed in all British services, and taught to abhor the slave-trade, which they have hitherto been taught to consider legitimate, from the fact that they are purchased with European articles of merchandise.

He recommended his propositions to the meeting with great confidence, as he was assured it was the best course to suppress slavery by the education of the natives in Christianity and the advantages of commerce and agriculture. (Applause.) The meeting was then addressed by several of the gentlemen present, and a resolution was adopted for establishing an association to aid in carrying out the objects above set forth.

#### THE INUNDATION AT SHEFFIELD.

An official return of the bodies missing fixes it at 241, but some 40 are still unaccounted for. The local subscription list amounts to more than 22,000*l.* The trustees of the Duke of Norfolk's estate have given 1,000*l.*; 500*l.* has been voted by the Court of Common Council. Her Majesty has most kindly presented 200*l.* to the fund, in a letter strongly expressing her sympathy. The district committees are labouring hard to mitigate the great distress resulting from the flood. Clothing and other assistance has already been supplied to large numbers of persons who were starving, but the immediate claims are so numerous and pressing that much remains to be done. Great efforts are being made to clear away the mud and filth left in cottages and streets; but though 100 carts are at work, and from 300 to 400 men, the streets are scarcely more passable than they were some days ago, such is the quantity of mud thrown out of houses and cellars. Disinfectants are being freely used, fears being entertained that the effluvia from the mud, which is already becoming very disagreeable, will in the warm weather generate fevers or other contagious disease, unless the greatest precautions are used. Lord Alfred Paget, who has visited the spot, gives a most affecting account of the desolation occasioned by the flood, estimating the loss at no less than two millions sterling.

The cause of the bursting of the reservoir gives rise to much comment. An engineer supplies to the *Sheffield Independent* a plausible contribution to the many theories afloat as to the failure of the Bradford dam. He supposes that the rocky bottom, exposed freely to the water by the excavations made to obtain material for the bank, permitted the water

to find its way through the fissures of the rock, and that thus it would reach and work through the foundations of the puddle bank, which went sixty feet below the bottom of the dam. This may account for the sinking and cracking of the embankment that preceded the crisis, and that would rend asunder the puddle. If investigation should support this theory, it will amply account for the destruction of the best embankment that could be made.

#### Postscript.

Wednesday, March 23, 1864.

AMERICA.

(From the *Times* correspondent.)

(Per the Bremen.)

NEW YORK, March 11.

Despatches from Admiral Farragut's fleet, off Mobile, of the 25th, reports that the bombardment of Fort Powell still continued. Refugees from Mobile state that the fort is bomb-proof, but that even if it should be reduced, a narrow channel fortified upon both sides for nine miles will have to be traversed to reach the city. They also state that the Confederate ram Tennessee is plated with six inches of iron, and carries seven 100-pounder Parrotts.

There is still no official intelligence from General Sherman, and, in order to allay the public disappointment at the failure of his movements, very exaggerated reports of the destruction of railways and stores which he committed in Mississippi are published in the Ministerial papers.

Mr. Lincoln on the 9th inst. presented General Grant with the commission of Lieutenant-General, stating that "with it he presented the nation's appreciation of his past services, and its dependence upon him to accomplish what remained to be done in the present struggle." General Grant made a short and modest reply. Yesterday he left Washington on a visit of inspection to the army of the Potomac, and to-day has taken his departure for Nashville.

Mr. Chase has formally withdrawn his name as a candidate for the Presidency.

Mr. Justice Ritchie, of St. John, New Brunswick, has released the Chesapeake prisoners, upon the grounds that no proper requisition has been made by the Federal Government, that there is no treaty existing which would justify their being delivered up, that Mr. Magistrate Gilbert had no jurisdiction in the case, and that the warrant issued for their arrest was insufficient.

Gold has declined to 162½. The fall is attributed to the renewal of resolutions in Congress authorising Mr. Chase to sell his surplus gold.

March 12 (11 a.m.).

General Grant's sudden departure for Nashville is considered to indicate that the military situation in the south-west is of a critical nature. General Halleck will not be removed from his present position, but will be retained at Washington by Mr. Lincoln for military consultation and advice.

The bill authorising Mr. Chase to sell the surplus gold in the Treasury, which was rejected by the Committee of Ways and Means, has been revived and amended by Mr. Sherman, and yesterday passed the Senate by a vote of 30 against 8. It has yet to be returned to the Lower House.

Gold, 162½.

#### LATEST CONTINENTAL NEWS.

VIENNA, March 22.—The *Oesterreichische Zeitung* of to-day states that the conference on the Danish question has been accepted by Austria and Prussia without any settled basis of negotiations being laid down, and without an armistice being agreed to.

COPENHAGEN, March 21 (7.52 p.m.).—The *Berlingske Tidende* of to-day, in a semi-official article, says:—"The Government has not acceded to an armistice, since the surrender of Düppel could not be entertained; and to make the present position of affairs the basis for the suspension of hostilities is equally impossible."

MARSEILLES, March 21.—Letters from Rome to the 19th instant state that the Pope has been better since the operation upon the tumour on his leg. The fever had disappeared, and his Holiness had received the French Ambassador, with whom he had a long conversation. The Archduke Maximilian was expected at Rome.

TURN, March 22.—The *Opinions* of to-day, says:—"Yesterday the English steamer Valetta touched at Caprera, and embarked Garibaldi and six other persons. It is believed that Garibaldi proceeds to England, where he has been expected for some days."

The Paris papers of last evening assert that a Mexican loan for 200 millions of francs has been concluded with a London house.

The Turkish Government are said to be taking measures for the more stringent surveillance of the Polish refugees in Turkey, and to have offered some the alternative of being "interned" or expelled the country.

A brief from the Pope to the Archbishop of Munich (dated 21st of last December) has just been published. In refers to the assembly of German Catholic savans held in Munich last September. The Pope writes with much disfavour of the tendencies of such assemblies, and seems even to imply a censure of some of the principles enunciated by eminent members of the Roman Catholic Congress of Malines.

#### THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S PASTORAL.

The Pastoral letter addressed by the Archbishop of Canterbury "to the clergy and laity" is published in the *Daily News* of this morning. It commences by a reference to the perplexity of many in reference to the late judgment, and the desire expressed from many quarters that he (the Archbishop) should publicly declare his views on the subject. Dr. Longley, while not presuming to criticise the judgment, claims the privilege of giving expression to opinions formed prior to the delivery of the judgment and wholly irrespective of the terms in which it is couched. As a judge, he did not think he was called upon to attempt any definition of inspiration, seeing that the Church had not thought fit to prescribe one. He then cites various passages from the services and articles to show that the Church authoritatively declares Holy Scripture to be identical with all those Canonical books of the Old and New Testament of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church that it is "the Word of God," and "God's Word written." He (the Archbishop) compares the statements with the passages from Dr. Williams's essays which he thought were inconsistent therewith, and with those for which Mr. Wilson was indicted. In the latter the inconsistency was so great as to approach a logical contradiction. The Archbishop proceeds:—

On the whole, I could not but perceive that no less momentous a question than this was at issue: Whether a clergyman should be permitted to proclaim to his people that the term "Word of God" is not to be identified with "Holy Scripture"; whether, in fact, the Bible is still to be our guide in matters of faith, still to have any power for establishing doctrine, still to be canonical in the sense in which I hold the term to be undoubtedly used by our Church; for if there be some portions of Holy Scripture which are merely human, and have no Divine sanction at all, the Bible must cease to be an infallible rule of faith and duty so long as we have no certain criterion whereby to distinguish between the human and the Divine element.

The conclusion at which I arrived on the subject of the charge against Mr. Wilson, relating to the everlasting punishment of the wicked, did not result from any doubt in my mind as to the doctrine of the Church of England upon this point. This doctrine I consider to be clearly indicated in the Communion Service, the Burial Service, the Apostles' Creed, and the Athanasian Creed; to the effect that the reward of the righteous is everlasting life, and the punishment of the wicked everlasting death; nor do I conceive that the Church has any more sure warrant for belief in the eternal happiness of the saved than it has for belief in the eternal suffering of the lost. But there was so much obscurity in the forms of expression used by Mr. Wilson on this head, that I did not consider the passages extracted from his essay would warrant the charge that he had "advisedly declared and affirmed in effect that after this life, at the end of the existing order of things on this earth, there will be no judgment of God, according to those men whom He shall then approve, everlasting life, or eternal happiness; and to those men whom He shall condemn, everlasting death or eternal misery."

In conclusion, the Archbishop addresses a few words of counsel to his brethren in the ministry. First, as to the interpretation of Scripture—

The view I have taken of the claim which the whole of the Holy Scripture has to be treated as the Word of God cannot interfere with the right of discussing questions as to the various readings, or the genuineness of a disputed text; for this is no more than to argue that a given text or reading is not a part of any canonical book. But such an argument on the part of a clergyman is a widely different thing from his assertion that a portion of the Bible which he has acknowledged to belong to a canonical book is not the Word of God. Without any such latitude as this, there is ample room for fair criticism; but criticism in the case of a minister of our Church must have its limits; inasmuch as he has bound himself to adhere to the plain meaning of the Articles and Formularies. You will, I am persuaded, feel convinced that it cannot be agreeable to the mind of the Church that you shall transgress these limits.

Then his Grace warns the clergy against interpreting "everlasting" in reference to future punishment as meaning anything else than that of "eternal" in the sense of "never-ending."

For whatever be the meaning of the word in these passages in the case of the lost, the same must be its meaning in the case of the saved; and our certainty of never-ending bliss for penitent believers is gone, if the word bears not the same signification in the case of the impenitent and unbelieving. You will also do well to observe how the teaching of the Church as to the eternity of the Son of God must be vitiated, if, when the second article of our Church declares that He was begotten from everlasting of the Father, she leaves us at liberty to suppose, under this restricted sense of the word everlasting, that there was a time when the Son of God was not.

The Duke of Newcastle was somewhat better yesterday, but he is still very weak, in consequence of his recent severe illness.

Mr. Joseph Cowen, of Blaydon-on-Tyne, has received a letter from Caprera, from General Garibaldi, to say that he intends to visit Newcastle during his stay in England.

#### MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

A limited supply of English wheat was received fresh up to our market to-day. For good and fine dry samples, there was a steady demand, at full prices; otherwise, the trade was dull, on former terms. The show of samples of foreign wheat on the stands was by no means extensive. Sales, however, progressed slowly; nevertheless, prices ruled firm. Floating cargoes of grain moved off slowly, at late rates. With barley, the market was moderately supplied. Generally speaking, the trade was quiet, yet prices ruled stationary.



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## The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1864.

## SUMMARY.

AFTER long delays, and while the arrangements for a Conference are pending, the Austrians and Prussians have commenced a simultaneous bombardment of Düppel and Fredericia with their heavy artillery. In the former case, the Prussians have captured the village of Düppel, and a position covering the approach to the Danish entrenchments, with heavy loss on both sides; but have, as yet, made no impression on the defensive works of the position. At Fredericia the town has been set on fire in several places. In each case, it is to be feared, the allies are prepared for a great sacrifice of life in attempting to storm these strongholds, which could offer an indefinite resistance if the Danish defenders were more secure of final retreat by sea. At Copenhagen there is no thought of yielding, and the Government have become very unpopular by having accepted a Conference in principle.

Paris has read the Imperial dynasty another severe lesson. In two supplementary elections to the Corps Législatif, M.M. Carnot and Garnier Pagès, both members of the Republican Government of 1848, have been returned by overwhelming majorities, notwithstanding the stern refusal to them by the authorities of the ordinary electioneering facilities. Following on previous defeats of the Government, these elections indicate in the clearest manner the dissatisfaction of the French capital at the arbitrary régime under which they live. Both the newly elected members are men of great ability as well as strong Liberal views. Though their return may not lead to any modification of the Imperial policy, they will strengthen the hands of the Opposition in the Chamber.

Garibaldi is on his way to England, and may be expected to arrive at Southampton in the course of next week. It is understood that the foremost Italian patriot seeks our shores as an invalid to renew his health, and avail himself of the best medical aid we can afford. That he will receive an enthusiastic welcome from all classes cannot be doubted. We only trust that he will not be persecuted with too many public ovations, and that his great name may not be used as a means for furthering objects with which a large portion of the English nation has no sympathy.

The Pope has been seriously ill—so seriously that the Cardinals are busy in speculating on his successor. It is said that his malady is aggravated by mental anxiety, arising out of the bad relations that subsist between his Ministers and the French General. There is little doubt that the death of Pius IX. would lead to no change in the Roman policy of the Emperor Napoleon, who shows no disposition whatever to withdraw from the Eternal City. Failing health, however, has not prevented the Pope from issuing a letter to the Archbishop of Munich, in which a decided rebuke is administered to the liberal Catholics in that city and at Malines who have lately striven to reconcile the dogmas of the Church with the requirements of modern opinion and the claims of freedom.

The spring campaign of the Federals has thus far proved a disastrous failure. There is no official report of the result of General Sherman's expedition towards Mobile, but there is no doubt that he has returned to Vicksburg, after having

sustained great losses. It is evident that the Confederates have proved a match for their antagonists at all points. Under these circumstances, President Lincoln has wisely determined to invest General Grant with supreme military authority under himself, and the new commander-in-chief will have to devise a new plan of operations to meet altered circumstances.

We would call attention to a respectful appeal published in another column "to the Nonconformist Liberals of the United Kingdom," inviting their co-operation in the movement for Parliamentary reform started by the working men of Leeds, with a view to the formation of a national organisation. Mr. Hickes asks that a numerous body of delegates, irrespective of social position, may be sent to the forthcoming Manchester Conference, and especially that Nonconformists will lend their powerful co-operation. It is not many days since so high an authority as the Chancellor of the Exchequer declared that there was no doubt the Liberal party in the House of Commons had failed in their duty towards the working classes—to whom, he thought, the franchise should be extended—and regretted the apathy of the middle classes on this question. Never was there a more favourable opportunity for the union of Parliamentary reformers, or the exhibition of a more reasonable temper on the part of the unfranchised in their efforts to obtain their electoral rights.

If any proof were required of the fitness of a large portion of the working classes to be entrusted with the franchise, it would be found in the signal success of the Lambeth Industrial Exhibition which closed last week. It was an experiment originated and carried out by working men. The articles exhibited showed a surprising amount of inventive and artistic skill among the exhibitors, and the many thousands of working men who visited the Lambeth Baths testified to the great interest excited by this interesting attempt to stimulate the industrial energies of the people. Such exhibitions will, no doubt, become frequent, and prove valuable auxiliaries in elevating the masses of the population.

## HOW NOW?

THIS is the political question which customarily turns up for discussion at the Easter holidays? Easter is regarded as the first important station on the line of the Session. That arrived at, people roughly take stock of what Parliament has done, and form an estimate of what it is likely to do. It has fallen so early this year, that one cannot speak very decisively of either the retrospect or the prospect. Six weeks have barely passed since the opening of the Grand Council of the nation, and the Budget yet remains to be disclosed. At first sight, it would seem premature to review the past or to anticipate the future. Nevertheless, the brief interval of Parliamentary work contains within it some indications worth a passing notice, and furnishes a not altogether unsatisfactory reply to the inquiry, "How now?"

It will not have escaped recollection that the two Houses met in February under circumstances of great public anxiety. The Austro-Prussian army had just invaded Schleswig, and it was matter of doubt how far the Government might have committed the country to an armed intervention in the Dano-German quarrel. On the one hand, it was tolerably clear that the British people, as a whole, were disinclined to being dragged into a war with the two great military Powers of Germany, for the settlement of a dispute the merits of which were by no means clear, and the end of which, if we interfered, none could pretend to foresee. On the other hand, the inexcusable precipitancy of Austria and Prussia had furnished those organs of opinion which were supposed to be well-informed on the foreign policy of Lord Palmerston with a pretext, which they did not fail to use, for stirring up the warlike feelings of the people. There were many who then regarded a European struggle as inevitable. Happily, the progress of the Session, thus far, has served to dispel the apprehensions that were then entertained. We have witnessed some exhibitions of real or affected disgust by the Conservatives at the position of humiliation in which they allege England to have been placed by fussy and unsuccessful diplomacy. We have heard the war-trumpet blown defiantly in the House of Lords. We have occasionally listened to strong and almost menacing language from the lips of the Premier and the Foreign Secretary. But, all things duly considered, we have settled down to the conclusion that our international policy is to be one of peace, and that neither of the political parties will readily dare the responsibility of rushing into a collision which cannot yield much advantage to Denmark, but which must prove

damaging to ourselves, and may bring about a total subversion of the political edifice founded on the treaties of 1815. True, we have had no formal debate, as yet, of the Dano-German question, but we should have had if the Opposition had been bent upon giving armed assistance to the Danes. We shall have, no doubt, much adverse criticism of the conduct of affairs by the Government in relation to this quarrel; but, so far as the Session has disclosed the intentions of the Legislature, we are warranted in concluding that we shall have no war.

Then, as to the stability of the existing Administration, the Session, down to now, has not very materially altered matters. That the Conservatives are intent upon finding or making opportunities for storming the Treasury benches is sufficiently clear. That those by whom they are led know how to do so with success, is even more problematical than it was on the first day of the Session. The one thing needed by the party is confidence in the generalship of their ostensible leader. They have numbers strong enough to assure them of a victory, could they but agree on a reasonable line of policy. Their Ministerial opponents present many weak points. The body of Liberals cannot be said to be satisfied. A sagacious and trusted leader might easily select a point of attack which it would not be in the power of Lord Palmerston successfully to defend. But, hitherto, the Conservatives have only displayed their folly in a succession of strategical blunders. Mr. Disraeli's defence of the French Emperor was more derogatory to the dignity and reputation of that Sovereign than the blunt refusal of Earl Russell to assent to a European Congress. The attempt to set free the Confederate rams by a snap-division, forewarned the country of the slight consideration with which the party, if in power, would provoke war with the United States. The loud complaints they have urged against any reduction in the estimates, speak unfavourably of the economical probabilities of their projected administration. Their resistance of Mr. Dodson's small measure of University reform will not recommend them to the friends of civil and religious freedom. On the whole, they have lost rather than gained ground, and that, not owing to the popularity of their opponents' measures, but simply in consequence of their own mistakes. Should the Chancellor of the Exchequer's budget be at once a striking and a satisfactory one, their chances for the present Session may be regarded as over. Accident may put office into their hands—but they will not be likely to gain it by either numbers or skill.

So much for Parliamentary parties and their respective prospects as surveyed from the threshold of Easter. In taking stock of legislative measures, our review is neither flattering nor wholly disagreeable. The minor Bills, one affecting the custody of lunatic convicts, and another granting facilities for using malt as food for cattle, are hardly worth mention. The Ministerial measure for amending the present system of dealing with convicted felons, although it has made no very rapid progress, commends itself to the good sense of the country. Far more important is the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Government Annuities Bill, which must be hailed as at least an honest attempt to assist the working classes in the habit and practice of frugality, and which, if passed, must lead to extensive social results. But whether the principle upon which the measure is founded may not hereafter produce fruits which the promoters of it, as well as the country at large, would vehemently deprecate, experience only, perhaps, is competent to determine. The intention of the Chancellor is so praiseworthy that we cannot but regret our inability to recognise the solidity of the economical basis upon which the measure is made to rest. This is but a scanty programme, but, so far as the intentions of Government go, it must be looked upon as comprehending the whole of the domestic policy of the Session. The Bills introduced by private members, especially Mr. Locke King's and Mr. Edward Baines's twin measures of Parliamentary Reform, will test the sincerity of the Liberal party, but stand no chance of being sent up to the House of Lords. With the exceptions we have mentioned Parliament will probably do nothing but pass the Estimates, and settle, more or less agreeably to the pockets of the people, the Ways and Means.

On the whole, Easter finds us in an easier and a more promising position than that which we occupied at the commencement of the year. We are still at peace, and are likely to continue so. We have no immediate prospect of a General Election turning upon mere party predilections. We have but few measures before us, but their object is laudable, and we will cherish the hope that their effect may be useful. So with undepressed spirits we can enter upon the holiday season, and hope to enjoy it without mortifying recollections and without painfully-anxious apprehensions.



## PARLIAMENTARY PERSONALITIES.

THE House of Commons, in compensation for the dulness of the Session, has resorted, before separation for the Easter holidays, to that kind of ever-welcome excitement which it finds in hunting down some obnoxious member. Party disappointment has no doubt assisted in exasperating the virtue of the Conservative members. Easter is at hand, and yet the prospects of office are, or seem to be, as remote as ever. Hungry men are never amiable. Generosity is incompatible with a keen appetite, and but a distant chance of appeasing it. An empty stomach and a bare board are highly promotive of lofty morality. Woe to the man whose sins come to light before dinner, especially when the promise of dinner begins to fade away as a too flattering mirage! The offences which a full meal would have placed in a softening and venial light, stand out to the pining in all their enormity. Toryism, scenting office, but unable to taste its sweets, is always savage, and generally intolerant of wrong-doing. Toryism, swooping down once and again since the opening of Parliament, has missed its quarry. The question of the Confederate rams, artfully pressed, resulted in a tantalising minority. The Danish papers seem indigestible, and, after having been sniffed at, have been put by as a *derrière pensée*. But a few words uttered by the Procureur-Général, during the trial of Greco and his accomplices at Paris, brought a Junior Lord of the Admiralty within range. The chance was not to be thrown away. He was not himself a mouthful for a starving party, but successfully followed up, he might lead the way to more substantial fare—so Mr. Stansfeld has been set upon with all the eagerness of party expectation, and the hunt, though it came to nothing, was for the time being a most exciting diversion.

Mr. Stansfeld's position was certainly an awkward one. The Procureur-Général had stated that a slip of paper had been found sewed in a part of the conspirator Greco's dress, alleged to be in the handwriting of Mazzini, directing him, if he stood in need of money, to write for it to Mr. Flower, 35, Thurloe-square, Brompton, which, on consulting the Directory, the legal functionary ascertained to be the residence of a member of Parliament and a member of the Administration. Mr. Stansfeld was known to be an intimate friend of Mazzini, and the charge insinuated rather than alleged against him was, that he had given shelter and granted facilities to a man who was an avowed leader of the Red Republicans, who was believed to sanction the use of the dagger for high political ends, and who was suspected of organising successive plots against despotic Governments on the Continent, and that, in doing so, he must have known the uses to which his hospitality would be turned. The hon. member, when questioned on the subject, indignantly repudiated any complicity in the miserable plot against the life of the Emperor Napoleon, and with a self-sacrificing generosity which cannot but command admiration, bore fervid testimony to the lofty and unsullied character of Mazzini, whom, after a knowledge of him for seventeen years, he declared to be incapable of the crime of political assassination, and as innocent as himself of the Greco plot.

The friend and host of Mazzini, and a Junior Lord of the Admiralty! Here was a chance for the Opposition not to be neglected. So they set to work, and selected from Mazzini's published works passages which, torn from the context, seemed to defend and even to advocate "the theory of the dagger," and which were read with austere solemnity to the House. Had the Government made any communication to the French Government on the subject? Was Mr. Stansfeld's house still at the disposal of the arch-conspirator for the reception of treasonable correspondence? The interpellations did not draw forth satisfactory answers. Surely, there was some mystery beneath the surface. At length, a formal motion was brought forward to the effect that the case was one deserving the consideration of the House. The intention seemed to be to reach the head of the Government through Mr. Stansfeld. Then came the explanation which had been better given at first and spontaneously. Mr. Stansfeld had entertained Mazzini, and had allowed him to receive letters addressed to him at the house of his host, under feigned names, because any that might have been written to him from the Continent superscribed with his own name would have been opened, if not stopped, by foreign Governments—but when Mr. Stansfeld's position had become one of official responsibility, Mazzini had himself put a stop to the arrangement by which his friend might become compromised. As soon as the Procureur-Général's statement appeared, Mr. Stansfeld placed his office at the disposal of Lord Palmerston, who told him he

neither desired, nor would accept, his resignation. The whole matter resolved itself into a generous indiscretion, and the Tories, disappointed once more, could only howl their vexation, and go to a division in which they were beaten.

*Pari passu* with this personal fracas, but not by any means so exciting, was the duel between Mr. Sheridan and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in which we must say that the Chancellor put himself needlessly in the wrong, and from which he retired apologetically, but not with a good grace. We need not enter into the merits of the dispute. But we draw two or three conclusions from these scenes of the past week. First, we think it will be admitted that the House of Commons is jealous of any attack upon the private character of its members, and, under ordinary circumstances, is ready to protect the weak against the assaults of the strong. This was proved in the case of Gladstone v. Sheridan. But, secondly, this jealousy is seldom active in instances which open a prospect of party advantage, as was decisively shown in the case of the Tories v. Stansfeld. Thirdly, as Mr. Bernal Osborne pointed out in his most sarcastic manner, the House, while it professes its dislike of "painful" altercations, is attracted by them far more strongly than by useful political measures. And, lastly, a session in which the Government has no business of importance, is invariably distinguished by a greater number of personal squabbles than usual.

"For Satan finds some mischief still  
For idle hands to do."

## NOTES OF THE SESSION.

PARLIAMENT has separated for the Easter recess without any discussion in either House on the Dano-German question. Before the Lords separated on Friday, the Earl of Ellenborough made an effort to enter upon the subject, but was stopped by Earl Russell, who pleaded that any discussion just now "might be liable to misapprehension by the parties now engaged in the war, and might thus tend to the public injury, and prevent the success of the negotiations which are now being carried on" for the holding of a conference. Of course the debate was postponed. Mr. Osborne, in the other House on the preceding evening, did not show himself so yielding, but was eventually obliged to comply with the entreaties of Lord Palmerston and Mr. Disraeli, and content himself with giving notice of a new resolution on the subject, to be moved on the 19th of April. There is no doubt very general dissatisfaction in both Houses at these frequent postponements, for which, in the end, the Government is likely to pay dearly.

At the day sitting on Wednesday, when the Abolition of Tests (Oxford) Bill was under consideration, the House of Commons was in one of its calmest and most creditable moods. The debate on that occasion is described in another column. Next day the whole scene was changed. The early part of the sitting was devoted to mutual recriminations between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. H. B. Sheridan, which were so unsatisfactory as to require further explanations on the succeeding evening, when the charges against the member for Dudley were substantially, though not handsomely, withdrawn. During these rencontres the Opposition testified in a very marked manner their animosity towards Mr. Gladstone, which was scarcely allayed when he had made the *amende* to his unequally-matched but undaunted antagonist. In this case, however, the instinct of fair play partly accounted for their ebullitions of anger.

For a time on Thursday the general impatience of the House was restrained by a debate on the Government Annuities Bill, in the course of which the practical objections to Mr. Gladstone's grand scheme of insurance for working men through the agency of the Post Office were forcibly stated—by none more ably and temperately than by Mr. Sotherton Estcourt, whose reappearance in the House after his severe illness was greeted with loud cheers. He doubted whether the working classes, scattered as they were over the face of England, would take advantage of the provisions of the Bill. The people of this country did not enter into friendly societies so much for the sake of benefits, properly so called, as companionship, and of all the benefits usually offered to them almost the only one they cared for was the provision in time of sickness. But so gigantic an operation as that of amending sick clubs no Government would venture to undertake. As it at present stood, the Bill interfered too much with individual action, but perhaps it might be so moulded as to avoid that difficulty. Mr. Estcourt's friendly criticism evidently produced an impression. The Chancellor of the Exchequer accepted the proposal that the clauses of the bill should be

referred to a select committee for reconsideration, but he would not consent to a general committee in order that the case of various societies might be investigated. The discussion altogether was one of great interest; but although the question was one of the most vital importance as affecting the welfare of the great mass of our working population, the House shouted down successive speakers, and it was found necessary to adjourn the debate till after Easter.

The reason for this impatience was the prospect of a great party struggle. Sir H. Stracey, a member whose voice is rarely heard in debate, had given notice of a motion to the effect "that the statement of the Procureur-Général on the trial of Greco, implicating a member of this House and of her Majesty's Government in the plot for the assassination of our ally the Emperor of the French, deserves the serious consideration of this House." So daring an innovation on the practice of Parliament as the proposal to condemn a member on a vague charge made by an official prosecutor in France, did not deter the Opposition from seizing so tempting an opportunity of damaging, if not defeating, the Government. In a very crowded House, the members of which had been whipped up on both sides, Sir H. Stracey brought his bill of indictment against Mazzini with a view to implicate Mr. Stansfeld. Had he been able to prove that the Italian patriot was concerned in the Greco conspiracy, his case would have been stronger; but that the French courts themselves have not succeeded in doing. But his recital of what Mazzini had said and done in former years wound up the Opposition to the utmost pitch of excitement. The baited member for Halifax rose to face the raging storm, and gave explanations which would have been more gracefully offered a week or two ago. But substantially he denied any knowledge of the transactions alluded to by his Parliamentary prosecutor, and admitted that it was neither advisable nor fitting that the letters of Mazzini should be addressed to the residence of a person occupying his position. But the Opposition were in no mood to spare their victim. According to the statement of an eye-witness, "one after another they shrieked or squealed at the new Minister; mocked and mewed at him; gibbered, gesticulated, nodded; rose at him; howled, bellowed, bawled dissent from what he said before he had finished; shouted assent to everything damaging to him almost before it was begun." Is it surprising that Lord Palmerston should rise to throw his broad shield over a colleague thus hunted down by a frenzied mob of members; indignantly refuse the humiliation of telling the French Government that an English gentleman, a member of Parliament holding office under the Government, was not connected with an infamous plot against the Emperor's life; and remind the Opposition that five years ago, when he proposed the Conspiracy Bill, they were by no means so zealous for giving satisfaction to the Emperor Napoleon? Mr. Disraeli eagerly seized the occasion for a party attack on the Government. He was willing to put the most favourable interpretation on Mr. Stansfeld's conduct; but sufficient had occurred to require on the part of the Government "a friendly, temperate, dignified, and, if necessary, a confidential communication to the foreign Government." The "friendly" offer of the mover of the resolution had been refused. The noble lord will not assert the dignity of the House of Commons, and I think the House of Commons ought to assert its own—he exclaimed, amid the frantic cheers of his followers. In a speech of noble generosity Mr. Bright excused Mr. Stansfeld's conduct, exposed the "simulated horror" of Mr. Disraeli, and in a tone of scornful disgust at the unworthy conduct of the Opposition, declared, in memorable language, that if he were as hungry as the hungriest to place himself on the Treasury Bench, he should be ashamed to make way to it over the character, the reputation, and the future of the latest appointed and youngest member of the Government. More exciting speeches followed, amid which Mr. Gladstone judiciously summed up the real facts of the case—there were simple allegations on the one side, and a full denial on the other—but the House was impatient for a division. The motion was rejected by a majority of 10 (171 to 161), and the result was hailed with thundering cheers by the Liberal side of the House.

But the Opposition were not yet satisfied. On Friday evening Lord Elcho inquired whether Mr. Stansfeld had tendered his resignation. Lord Palmerston replied that he had done so when the question had been first brought forward. He (Lord Palmerston) had not accepted it, and was ready to take the responsibility of that decision upon himself. Another explosion of Conservative indignation and rancour followed, which Mr. Forster did his best to stem, and Mr. Osborne sarcastically rebuked as un-



worthy the character of English members of Parliament. He added, amid responsive cheers, "I have no particular confidence in her Majesty's Government, or in the members of the Administration, but I should be ashamed to select one of its members, and that a very humble member, who has made his way without any aristocratic connections, and solely by his own abilities, and hunt him about, and use opprobrious expressions towards him." But if the assailants of Mr. Stansfeld were sensible to shame, they must have been stung to the quick when Mr. Newdegate rose and denounced this system of persecution and personal attack "carried to an excess positively painful." Were they all free from imputation? Had it not been proclaimed in that House that the brigands of Italy, who murdered their prisoners and committed unspeakable atrocities, were patriots? This was a fair and timely reminiscence. All honour to a Conservative member who could thus place the claims of truth and fair dealing before those of party obligation!

#### SELF-DISPARAGING EGOTISM.

It is a very common mistake to suppose that egotism is only to be found in combination with self-complacency. Almost as frequently it is allied with self-depreciation and distrust, and, on the whole, croaking egotism causes greater annoyance than that which is always on good terms with itself. There are people who, owing partly to an unfortunate temperament, partly to an erroneous estimate of themselves, and partly to an unchecked indulgence of a certain morbidity of feeling, walk along the path of life, no matter whether it be troubled or pleasant, fretting themselves as they go with all manner of surmises as to the dislike of or ill-will towards them supposed to be entertained by almost everybody with whom they may chance to be thrown into temporary or lasting association. They interpret—we may go the length of saying, they torture—the most innocent acts, the most playful jokes, the most undesigned negligences, and sometimes the most delicate and kindly proofs of consideration, in others towards themselves, as indicative of a settled desire to affront them. If a friend accidentally meets or passes them in the street without recognising them, they are certain it was intended as a "out direct." If in conversation he unconsciously makes use of a phrase, a figure, or a quotation, which has the least applicability to anything in their circumstances, although he may never have dreamed of it, they instantly detect in it an unpleasant innuendo. They are for ever plotting against their own peace by attributing to other persons plots which never had any other existence than in their own imagination, and, having indirectly passed sentence upon themselves as if it were the sentence pronounced upon them by other folk, they go about the world under a perpetual impression that they are ill-used and have a right to complain.

The basis of all these self-worrying habits is excessive egotism. It may be silent, timid, distrustful, shrinking—it may wear sometimes the appearance of humility and self-abnegation—but it is egotism none the less. It springs out of the practice of constituting oneself the centre of every conceivable circle into which one may be carried, and concluding that everything stirring within that circle must find its explanation in, or derive its significance from, its relation to that centre. If we might suppose a case of physical disease in which the skin has become so sensitive and sore that it is pained by every kissing breath of wind, and smarted under the slightest friction of the dress caused by an otherwise imperceptible contact with passers-by, we should have a good physical analogue of the moral malady now under notice. The cause of the pain is to be looked for, not in the force of the wind, nor in the rudeness of the passers, but in the abnormal tenderness of the epidermis which converts what is harmless enough in itself, into an agency which inflicts suffering. A healthy skin would enjoy the breeze, and would be utterly unconscious of any slight and momentary displacement of the raiment that covers it. And, in like manner, a mind and temper in a sound and healthy condition would detect nothing disparaging in any one of the thousand incidents which make an over-sensitive egotism wince. It is only when every inch, if we may so say, of a man's inner surface is morbidly self-conscious, that he suspects himself intentionally disparaged by gestures, words, and acts which may be reasonably referred to some less studied and more natural origin than "malice prepense."

That inflamed egotism is at the bottom of this self-worrying temper may be inferred from another of its forms of manifestation. The very same individuals who fancy a design to disparage them in

the unconscious or indifferent acts of others when in their presence, are apt to assume that in their absence none of the relative responsibilities will be recognised, none of the relative duties conscientiously performed. They appear to cherish a sort of dim and indefinite impression that it is to their watchful inspection that all regular deportment on the part of their friends is to be attributed, and that when they are temporarily removed, and their eyes can no longer see what is going on, that something will be sure to go wrong. And the kind of wrong the strong probability of which they imagine is always that which bears some relation to themselves. It is not that such and such a friend will seize the opportunity of their being away to turn pickpocket, or commit forgery, or be guilty of violence, or in any other way infringe the laws or even the recognised proprieties of society—but that he will at once abnegate some one or other of the obligations imposed on him with respect to them—will ungratefully forget them, or unduly despise them, or whisper evil things against them, or wantonly pursue a course of conduct which will unjustly place them at a disadvantage. In short, by that self-same activity of egotistic suspiciousness by which they transmute what they see into causes of offence, they also imagine what they cannot see to be of a like character, but somewhat intensified by the removal of restraint.

Believing as we do that this self-disparaging egotism is mainly hereditary, and is owing chiefly to physical derangement—although doubtless, like every other evil sprung from the same origin, it may be greatly aggravated by unchecked indulgence—we think it ought to be treated with peculiar forbearance and compassion. Everyone knows that there are certain stages of sickness in which the patient is prone to ascribe everything done for him, or omitted from being done, to unkind personal motives on the part of those around him. Sickness and suffering have a natural tendency to concentrate a man's attention upon himself, and cause him insensibly to slide into the habit of accounting for the acts of those with whom he has to do by an exclusive reference of them to something in his own state. A considerate nurse will make full allowance for repeated displays of this nature, and will think as little of them as possible. But predispositions and tendencies of mind, under some circumstances, and within certain limits, are transmitted from generation to generation, and, in many cases, become as involuntarily operative as in the instance of sickness to which we have just alluded. Possibly, if we could trace back through successive generations the gradual development of self-disparaging egotism to its formation, we might discover its origin in severe oppression practised through a long number of years upon comparatively remote progenitors. Habits of feeling gendered and kept alive by external circumstances for any lengthened period in lineal descendants, reproduce themselves long after those outward circumstances have passed away—and whenever we come across individuals whose unhappy propensity it is to turn everything against themselves in the way we have attempted to describe, we are wont to speculate upon the historical antecedents of their ancestry, and are disposed to regard with commiseration the unfortunate persons in whose constitution have been lodged the *débris* of stormy experiences undergone by their forefathers long, long ago.

It must, however, be confessed that the result, from whatever remote causes it may have flowed, is not only very disquieting to the immediate victim, but is also an excessively uncomfortable one to his personal *entourage*. Where people feel constrained to repress every ebullition of fun, to sheer away from every *equivocal* of speech or action, to make every movement conform to an established routine, and to study the possible effect of every movement, lest it should be interpreted in a sense altogether foreign from that which they intended, the naturalness and freedom of their lives are subjected to a very galling restraint. And our readers may perhaps have observed that the mental or moral disease, whichever it may be, is contagious, and that it is almost impossible for the frankest and least suspecting natures to be in close contact with one thus afflicted, at least for any considerable length of time, without catching and exhibiting some modifications of the complaint.

We are afraid that no effectual remedy can be prescribed. It is a malady for the cure of which there is no specific—at any rate, we know of none. Perhaps it may be best alleviated by treating it rather as a physical infirmity deserving tenderest pity, than as a moral obliquity demanding condemnation. It is worse than useless to deal harshly with it—for harshness only drives the eruption inwards. Fami-

liarise the patient with the notion that it is a temperament due chiefly to physical and constitutional causes, and, where there is good sense, there will come to be after awhile a correcter appreciation of the predisposition by the unfortunate subject of it. He will begin to class the suspicions of his self-disparaging egotism in the same category as his disagreeable dreams. He will attach to them less importance. He will be less disturbed by them—less disposed to accept them as facts by which he should be influenced. His daily life will be pleasanter to him, admitting of some intervals of sunshine, during which his morbid fancies will vanish—and, we need hardly add, that the experience of his friends will be pleasanter also. Trust is born of trust—where this is fairly exercised on the one side, it will ultimately quicken it on the other.

#### Parliamentary Proceedings.

##### HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Thursday some conversation took place relative to the Ten Years' Enlistment Act, and the improvement of the Irish Constabulary.

On Friday the Royal assent was given to the Consolidated Fund (584,650*l.*) Bill, the Consolidated Fund (4,500,000*l.*) Bill, Sir J. Lawrence's Salary Bill, the Inclosure Bill, the Mutiny Bill, and the Marine Mutiny Bill.

Earl RUSSELL asked Lord Ellenborough to postpone his motion relative to the Dano-German war, on the ground that negotiations were still going on. He had good hopes that Denmark would agree to a conference. The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH consented, though he thought that by adjourning the discussion they would be postponing it until a period when it would be too late to produce any beneficial effect. The Earl of DESART regretted that their Lordships were always met by the same excuse that negotiations were still going on—negotiations "never ending, still beginning," until the result was certain failure. Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE said, with every wish for a pacific settlement, and with all due feelings of deference to her Majesty's Government, he could not look forward to the issue of the pending difficulties without a sentiment of deep and painful apprehension.

The LORD CHANCELLOR laid on the table a bill to enable proprietors to assist the construction of railways which would directly benefit their estates. Read a first time.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE referred to the case of the men found on board the *Kearsage*, and Earl RUSSELL said he had nothing further to state on the subject. The papers relative to the matter had been submitted to Parliament; the men had been prosecuted, and Government had done everything they could to prevent a recurrence of the matter. Her Majesty's proclamation on the subject of enlisting in a foreign service had been made as public as possible. Lord CHELMSFORD suggested that copies of the depositions should be produced as well as the informations. This was agreed to, and their Lordships adjourned until Tuesday, the 5th of April.

##### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Wednesday the Speaker took the chair at a quarter past 12 o'clock.

Mr. Surtees took the oath and his seat on his election for Hertfordshire.

The Judgments Law Amendment Bill was read a second time, and referred to a select committee.

##### TESTS ABOLITION (OXFORD) BILL.

Mr. DODSON, in moving the second reading of this bill, said the religious tests which were now required for the degree of Master of Arts and the other higher degrees were two—first, a subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles, and secondly to three articles of the 36th Canon; and appended to those tests was a declaration to the effect that the subscriber subscribed heartily and willingly, and to the full extent of the tests. The object of the bill was to abolish those tests without making any exception. The bill did not propose to interfere with the religious teaching of the University, or with any of those statutes which provided that persons holding professorships should belong to the Church of England, or at all events should teach nothing contrary to her doctrines.

He did not think that subscription itself would be strongly defended on the opposite side of the House. The Oxford Commissioners who reported in 1853, stated that these stringent subscriptions were morally injurious to those who took them, because they had the effect of making persons play fast and loose with the tests. The very eminent teachers of the University who signed the petition last year confirmed that statement, and added that these subscriptions perplexed consciences, and had the effect of preventing persons who would be valuable members of the University from joining it. As to their failure in promoting religious peace, if any proof were needed it was afforded by the extraordinary spectacle which the University of Oxford presented last week. (Hear, hear.) In justification of the proposal contained in the bill, he might appeal to the example of the sister Universities of Cambridge, Dublin, and Scotland; and he did not apprehend that the House would be told that they were godless institutions, and given up to infidelity. How was it reconcilable with common sense that the University of Oxford should say to persons who had distinguished themselves there in law, history, and



science, that it would not confer on them those higher degrees which were the natural rewards of their competence in learning, and the passport to facilitate their career in life, unless they professed certain religious opinions? (Hear.) The Church invited all to listen to her teaching without instituting an inquiry into the orthodoxy of their opinions; and why should a lay university be more exclusive than the Church itself? It might be objected that the bill, if passed, would encourage men to go to the University who were entirely Dissenters; but, in his opinion, the Church and the University ought to rejoice to attract such persons into the sphere of their influence. The University could not be prepared to say that she stood in dread of her own pupils; for if, upon that ground, she did not encourage Dissenters to come to her precincts, she was unworthy of her position. The University's high privileges were bestowed on her, not that she might shut herself up in an exclusive and dignified intolerance, but that she might be in a position usefully to do her work and bear her part in the conflicts of the day. (Hear, hear.) He was introducing no new principle, but only seeking to carry out to the full extent a principle already admitted. Perhaps he might be told that by his bill Dissenters would be allowed to vote in Convocation, and so be admitted to the governing body of the University. It remained to be proved, however, that Convocation could be called, except by a figure of speech, the governing body of the University. It was the electoral body, but its legislative powers were very few indeed, and it did not appear to him requisite, in order to insure the connexion between the Church and the University, and to secure religious teaching on the footing on which it now stood, to divorce for the first time the power of voting in Convocation from the degree of Master of Arts. The subject was of considerable importance, because the vote in Convocation was, no doubt, one of the great privileges and attractions of the degree—(Hear, hear)—and he was ready to admit that the question might be fairly discussed in committee.

Mr. Dodson ably criticised the petition against the bill from the University of Oxford, and concluded by asking, in the interest of the Church, and for the benefit of the University of Oxford, that the defences erected for the protection of the Church in times of real danger, should not be maintained after they had ceased to be safeguards, and when they had only become barriers to impede the just liberty of those who were willing to join the University and add to her strength. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. NEATE seconded the motion, which he said he did with great reluctance, because he was living at and still continued connected with the University of Oxford. The course recently taken by Convocation at Oxford with regard to Professor Jowett rendered it necessary that there should be some relaxation of its rigid rules. The necessity of this subscription was an obstruction to the advancement of many young men of great promise, especially when it was enforced on those who had arrived at an age when they considered its nature and did not regard it as a ceremony, as might be the case with comparative youths. It operated to drive men from the University, and was likely to cause a strong sectional feeling in the Church. The University was a lay corporation.

The University was no more a Church of England corporation than any corporation in the kingdom before the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, and he could see no good reason why the University should have been exempted from the effect of that legislation, except that it was thought too powerful a body to deal with. It was true that Dissenters might have all the benefits of studying at the University, but they could not obtain a degree beyond that of Bachelor of Arts. It could hardly be said that the indulgence granted to them enabled them to enter the University at all, because if they were to be stopped in their career just at the time when the prizes ought to be opened to them, very few would avail themselves of the privilege which was offered. He should like to know what young man of a spirited nature would enter into a career of official life if he was never to aspire beyond the degree of a Lord of the Treasury? (Laughter and cheers.) That was about the position in which the Dissenter stood at the University of Oxford.

The question of the colleges was one of great delicacy, but it might be a question hereafter whether, as it was now proposed to bring the University into harmony with the other institutions of the State, a proposition might not be made to bring the colleges into harmony with the University. He did not shrink from confessing that in Oxford, as well as out of it, there was a considerable amount of laxity of belief. (Hear, hear.) The young men at Oxford were sound as to essentials, but many entertained doubts on a number of the points which they were required to subscribe, and there was a general objection to it as an unjust exaction. The continuance of severe tests would not restrain, as it has not prevented, a spirit of laxity.

Sir W. HEATHCOTE moved the rejection of the bill, contending that its effect would be to dissociate the University from the Established Church, with which it had always been connected. The course taken by the University of Cambridge had been cited as an authority in favour of the bill, but there was no analogy in the cases, because anyone might obtain the degree of M.A. in that University without any test, but the degree did not carry with it any of the advantages of the University, as those who held those degrees were never members of the Senate until they had subscribed to tests proving them to belong to the Church. If the bill were carried it would only furnish an argument for another advance in the same direction, and for pushing Cambridge forward to the position which Oxford would then occupy. A bill which struck at the root of the principle of association between the governing body of the University and the Church was not one about which it was wise or necessary to argue at any length. If his hon. friend really intended to adopt the Cambridge plan, it would have been better for him to withdraw the bill and substitute

another; but he could not agree to read a bill a second time when they would have to eliminate the principle on which it was founded at the very next stage. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. SELWYN seconded the amendment.

Mr. GRANT DUFF was sorry that the hon. baronet had not accepted the conciliatory proposal of his hon. friend. He supported the bill because it seemed to him that it made a reasonable concession to the views of the Liberal party within the Church, because it acknowledged, although slightly, the just claims of the Nonconformists, and because, independently of its influence upon the fortunes of any sect or party, it would probably be useful to the University. There was nothing more apparent than that the continuance of the subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles and the Prayer-book did not suffice to insure uniformity of opinion among those who took the declaration. That was proved by the remarkable differences in the religious views of those who recently formed the majority in the Sheldonian Theatre. If proof were wanting of the futility of tests, it would be found in the fact that infidelity was spreading among the clergy who were most subjected to them. In regard to the Nonconformists, the continuance of these tests are one of the last vestiges of religious persecution. It was unfortunate for the nation that Nonconformists should be excluded to a great extent from the higher culture given at Oxford—(Hear, hear)—and that irritating barriers should be kept up between sects, where there was often very little difference of opinion. Oxford had not always been so particular about her tests.

Towards the close of the seventeenth century a Greek college was established at Oxford, and maintained for about ten years, without any attempt being made to proselytise the young men, or to deny them the privileges of the University. It was suppressed at last, not on account of any religious motives, but from casual circumstances, and also because greater attractions were offered at Paris and elsewhere to Greek students. Twenty years later the University of Oxford gave the degree of D.D., with all its privileges, to a distinguished Roman Catholic ecclesiastic. He claimed support for the bill, finally, because it would be useful to the University. It was the clerical influence which had always done the University most harm. From the earliest times down to the recent disgraceful scene in the Sheldonian Theatre, the clerical influence had been at the bottom of every humiliation endured by the University.

There was no more attached and loyal member of that great corporation than himself, but he confessed with sadness that, considering her gigantic revenue, her immense power, her vast prestige, there was hardly any university in Christendom that was doing so little for the progress of science and learning. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. NEWDEGATE, in opposing the measure, declared that he should prefer to see tests and subscriptions abolished altogether rather than that men who did not belong to the Church should become components of the governing body of the University. The bill established a distinction between the laity and the clergy with respect to the terms of Church-membership. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member for the city of Oxford thought there had been too much clerical influence in the management of the University, and the hon. member for East Sussex said there had been a monkish spirit in the governing body. Yet those hon. gentlemen were actually proposing to assimilate the terms of Church-membership at Oxford to those which existed in the Church of Rome. He hoped the House would reject the bill as unsound and deceptive in its very terms, for, in the declaration of *bond fide* Church-membership which it proposed to substitute for subscription to the Articles and formularies of the Church, the *bond fide* must go for nothing if the membership was not that hitherto recognised by the University and the country. It was their duty to reject all measures which tended, however remotely or indirectly, to secularise Oxford or Cambridge, those great seminaries of true religion, because they had provided the country with an educated class untrammelled by the narrowness of bigotry, and untainted by the wildness of latitudinarian speculation. (Hear, hear.)

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER regretted that he could not concur with his colleague (Sir W. Heathcote) in voting for the rejection of the bill, especially as the great weight of Sir William's character qualified him, perhaps more than any other, to mediate and bring about a kindly accommodation of these difficult and contested questions. The course he was now taking was not consistent with past legislation, for tests had been partially abolished at Oxford, and still further at Cambridge. An attitude "of indiscriminate resistance" was therefore neither wise nor timely. If they were of opinion that the tests applied in the University of Oxford for the purpose of ascertaining membership in the Church of England were unfit tests to be applied under all circumstances of the day, and in the present state of our law, to the large and somewhat miscellaneous body which constituted the Convocation, that was a state of facts which amply justified them in voting, and even imperatively required that they should vote, in favour of the second reading of this bill. Mr. Newdegate went the length of saying that this declaration of *bond fide* membership was a hypocritical system. But it was the University of Cambridge itself to which was due the whole credit or discredit of having invented that hypocritical system of dealing with one-half the consciences of the laity and those of a great portion of the clergy of the Church of England. He had to put this question:—

Granted that there may be a score or so of lay teachers at Oxford who are training future clergymen—granted, if you like, that it may be right to ascertain

from these teachers that they are more than mere *bond fide* members of the Church of England in a general sense,—I ask is that a reason why the same test of adherence to the Thirty-nine Articles and to the Prayer-book, why the teachers' test of the Church of England, why the clerical test of the Church of England, should be applied to the 3,000 laymen constituting the majority of Convocation? (Cheers.) I venture to say that there is no answer to that question. My hon. friend did not attempt to provide an answer to it, and there is none to be found.

Therefore he felt justified in voting for the second reading of the bill, though he could not support it on its third reading as it now stood. For he could not agree that the governing body of the University should be thrown open irrespective of religious distinctions. He thought that in the present circumstances the best course which they could take—the course which would be fairest to those members of the Church of England who desired relaxation—the course most conducive to the interests both of the Church and of the Universities generally, and most just also as regarded the Nonconformists, was to adopt for Oxford in the main the system already adopted for Cambridge. (Hear, hear.) He for one was not able to defend the present legislative arrangement of Oxford. There were, he thought, five points on which changes might be made at Oxford, all of which had been made at Cambridge; some of them must be made by the legislature and the rest might be made by the University herself.

I confess I do not see how you are to justify the exclusion of Dissenters from lay degrees, nor how you are to justify the maintenance of the lay test for Churchmen. I must confess I think it would be very well if those who govern the University had the power of admitting, even into the governing body, by special decrees made for that purpose, persons whom it might be desirable to introduce upon special or exceptional grounds, although they might not individually belong to the Church of England; just as at King's College, certain professorships are thrown open to particular persons, irrespectively of their religious communion. There is another point which, although it has not been distinctly referred to in this discussion, is yet of great practical importance, and one with regard to which Oxford and Cambridge are under a different legislative arrangement. I mean the question of private halls. (Hear, hear.) As far as I am acquainted with the feelings of the Nonconformist bodies—and especially with the feelings of some among them—I believe that what they are most anxious for is to be allowed to found private halls in the Universities under masters of their own persuasion. The provisions of the Oxford University Act as to private halls have proved almost entirely inoperative, and if somewhat amended after the manner of the Cambridge University Act advantage might be anticipated from them. The difference between the two acts in this respect is apparently very slight. But the Oxford Act provides by its 25th section that any member of Convocation—that is of the governing body—having obtained a license for the purpose, may open a private hall. This confines the superintendence of private halls entirely to members of the Church of England, and consequently imposes on the members of other religious denominations this disability—that they must either refrain from sending their children to the University altogether, or place them under the direct control of persons belonging to the Church of England. Now, the exaction of these terms might be justifiable if absolutely necessary for the welfare of the University; but I own I do not see what mischief or danger could arise from allowing young gentlemen of other persuasions than the Church of England to come to Oxford and be placed under the disciplinary care of persons of their own denomination. That is not my opinion only, but the opinion of the Legislature; because by the Cambridge Act there is this modification introduced, that the privilege of establishing private halls in that University is given, not to the members of Convocation, but to members of the University. Therefore gentlemen, having taken the proper degrees and qualified themselves in other respects in such manner as to conform to any general rules laid down, may open private halls at Cambridge without being members of the Church of England. That is a matter of great practical importance, and one the solution of which would depend not at all on our adopting this bill as it stands, but on our adopting that provision of it which liberates degrees from the application of any religious test. Then, with regard to college emoluments, it is difficult and somewhat invidious to maintain the existing law at the University of Oxford after the concession which has been made at the sister University. At Cambridge you have made this concession; that no declaration shall be taken or required on admission to any college emolument which is made the means of assisting a young man in going through his course as an undergraduate; and I confess I do not know why admission to such emoluments should be by law restricted, excepting as far as it involves admission to the governing body either of the University or of the Colleges.

He therefore thought the policy of indiscriminate resistance was at variance with the state of the law and with sound policy.

No doubt it is natural to bodies of men—and the history of all religious sects and parties shows it—to make use of the day of prosperity, not as, I think, true wisdom would dictate, for the purpose of accommodating difficulties and removing grounds of offence, but for the extremest assertion of every right and every privilege to which it still remains within their strength to cleave. (Hear, hear.) I was once, Sir, taken to task for questioning the judgment of this House, but I think it is quite competent for us, in a manner consistent with all due respect, to lament any decision at which this House may have arrived. It is not necessary now to enter into particulars, but various bills have been proposed involving concession in one shape or another to Dissenters and persons who desire the relaxation of tests; and it appears to me that the readers of our discussions and those who learn the decisions to which this House has come during the last two or three years will have concluded with regret, if they are readers of wise and dispassionate mind, that very precious opportunities—golden



opportunities—have been lost of uniting and knitting together the minds and hearts of men by reasonable concessions—(cheers),—and that the assertions of right by majorities, which have been perhaps somewhat ruthlessly and certainly sternly made, are by no means calculated to diminish those dangers which lie in the future,—that they procure, indeed, the gratification of a triumph for the moment, but that they store up difficulties for those who are to sit on these benches in this House hereafter. ("No!" and cheers.) With that policy of indiscriminate resistance to almost every measure aiming at relaxation or relief, even down to the poor little measure—for so I must call it—of my hon. friend the member for Sheffield (Mr. Hadfield)—(laughter),—which, I think, we carried through this House only by a majority of four, merely to undergo very shortly the miserable fate which too certainly awaited it in another place—with that policy I must say it is not simply as a Minister of the Crown, and not only as a member sitting on this side of the House, that I decline to associate myself, but because I believe that, however sincerely, however honourably intended—and that I do not for one moment question—it is a policy no more fatal to the application of the principles of civil and social justice than to the best interests of the Church of England itself. (Cheers.)

Mr. SEWYK opposed the bill, believing that although it professed to do for Oxford only what had been done for Cambridge, it really proposed to go much further. It would tend to increase the differences which now existed in the University, and would make every meeting of Convocation an arena for religious controversy, and every college the scene of religious dispute. In its very principle it was dangerous to the welfare of the University and to the interests of the Church, and he trusted it would not be sanctioned by the House.

Mr. V. SOULLY said that though as a Roman Catholic member he had engaged to do nothing to weaken the Church of England, he did not think that by supporting this bill he did anything calculated to militate against the interests of that Church; but, on the contrary, he thought it was likely to strengthen the Church.

Lord R. MONTAGU thought that the difference between the two sides of the House would be completely bridged over if the author of this bill would only insert in it three words placing Oxford exactly on the same footing as Cambridge.

Mr. BUXTON said that hon. gentlemen opposite argued that the House should adopt their views because they represented the opinions of the majority of members of Oxford University.

But could the House forget what had occurred a few days since, when the whole governing body of Oxford was overcome by an irruption of angry bigots from every corner of the land? ("Hear," and "Oh!") And yet hon. gentlemen opposite invited the House to submit to the judgment of a mere numerical majority like that! No attempt had been made to meet the great argument in favour of the bill—that the present system weighed with cruel oppression upon the consciences of many young men. According to the present system, if a young man hesitated to accept the tests, he was marked as a Dissenter or seceder, and consequently in most cases men forced themselves to swallow the tests, although with reluctance. Thus the University tempted the young men whom it fostered to tamper with their consciences by pretending to accept that concerning which they entertained serious doubts. Coming to the bill itself, he found they had been told that the real aim of this proposal was to assail the Established Church. That he denied. Practically, the hold of the Church of England on the University would remain exactly what it was now. Even should a few Dissenters enter Convocation, they would be an almost imperceptible minority, and under the provisions of this bill every functionary of the University, and every one engaged in teaching, would still have to declare himself a member of the Established Church. In fact, it was a delusion to suppose that this was in the main a Dissenters' question. No doubt this bill might relieve a certain number of Dissenters; but its main effect would be to relieve those who, while still loyal members of the Church, were yet unable to subject their minds to every part of her dogmatic teaching. And there lay the very gist of the whole question. The strife was between the principle of religious subjection and the principle of religious liberty. Strongly as he (Mr. Buxton) detested the tyrannical stringency of the existing subscription required of the clergy, he entirely allowed that those who were to preach from the pulpits of the Church and to serve at her altars must in some way be ascertained to be true members of that Church. But when he came to a test thus thrust upon laymen, he could not but see that this was nothing but an expression of the right of the Church to a dominion over men's minds, and he advocated the abolition of that test distinctly upon the principle of religious freedom—the principle, namely, that every man had an absolute indefeasible right, with which no other man and no law of man could be entitled to interfere, to think out his own faith, to believe or to disbelieve, to accept in part or to accept as a whole the religious teaching that was set before him.

Sir S. NORTHGOTE said that while the opponents of the bill were accused of indiscriminate resistance to it, it was the fact that the support it received was of a most indiscriminate nature—different members supporting it on different grounds—so that it was difficult to discover what was its exact principle. The case of Cambridge, which had been quoted, was not in point, as the measure proposed to place Oxford far in advance in regard to subscription of the sister University. It was not, however, to be supposed that Oxford was determined to offer resistance to every measure of change and improvement because objection was made to a bill, in the interpretation of the principle of which three distinct and contradictory views were taken by its supporters. If it was desired to place Oxford upon the same footing as Cambridge, and to deal with the five points referred to by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, let this bill be withdrawn or negatived, and then let the Government take the matter into their own hands—

(Hear, hear); or, if the Government should shrink from the task, let any hon. member who was anxious for that settlement bring forward a measure for that purpose. But with regard to this bill, he called upon the House not to be deluded into thinking that it was wrong to offer indiscriminate resistance to an indiscriminate attack.

Mr. WALTER said the supporters of the bill were at cross-purposes, for its proposer seemed to desire to admit Dissenters to the privileges of the governing body of the University; while Mr. Gladstone, who supported it, said that was not what he meant to advocate. While he was prepared to support a measure which would relax the present system of tests, he could not adopt a bill which went as far as that now proposed.

Mr. GÖSCHEN denied that the sole object of the bill was to admit Dissenters to the Government of the University; its object was to relieve the distressed consciences of many members of the University, and to remove obstacles to learning and inquiry into truth which the present system of tests created. Was a man to be told that whatever his learning, whatever his genius, if he did not assent to every one of the 500 propositions connected with the Thirty-nine Articles he could not become a member of the University, which otherwise he was qualified to adorn? (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WALPOLE energetically denied that the Opposition had offered "indiscriminate resistance to all improvement."

We have had three measures submitted to us of late years. One related to the great question of Church-rates, which was mainly argued at first upon the ground that Dissenters had a grievance in being required to pay for a Church which they did not frequent and with which they were not in communion. We attempted to meet that grievance. I myself proposed a bill to relieve Dissenters from it; but it was opposed, and a bill for the total abolition of Church-rates adopted, because its promoters had ulterior views. (Hear, hear.) Then came the bill relating to endowed schools. That bill was ostensibly brought in because it was said that the children of persons not belonging to the Church did not have fair play in religious instruction if they went to endowed schools. That objection was removed by a conscience clause, and yet the bill was persisted in because its promoters really desired that Dissenters should become managers and trustees of endowed schools. (Hear, hear.) Then came the third question of burying-grounds. It was said that it was a grievance that the body of a person who in his lifetime had not been a member of the Church could, if the law were strictly enforced, be refused interment in the churchyard. We offered to relieve Dissenters from that grievance, but they were not satisfied; they required the use of the church and the churchyard, and they demanded the right to have any ceremonies they pleased in them. (Hear.) And now we have a bill which the House is asked to pass upon the ground that it is to assimilate Oxford University to Cambridge University, while we know well, from what we have heard, that such is really not the object in view. (Hear, hear.)

Sir G. GREY declared that, in voting for the second reading, he did not assent to the principle of a severance between the governing body of the University and the Church of England. His hon. friend (Mr. Dodson) proposed in committee to add the qualifications which are not now inserted in the bill, to the effect that an M.A. degree shall not entitle any person to become a member of Convocation without test.

Mr. DODSON, in reply, complained that the principle of his bill had been misrepresented. The principle of the bill was not the admission of Dissenters into the governing body of the University, but the completion of the opening of University education by the removal of all unnecessary tests, at the same time maintaining the offices of the Church in the hands of members of the Church. To refuse to allow the second reading of this bill would be to refuse to the laity a concession which by common consent was pronounced necessary in the case of the clergy. ("Hear, hear," and "No.")

The House then divided. The numbers were—  
For the second reading ... 211  
Against it ... 189  
Majority ... 22

The result of the division was received with loud cheers.

The bill was then read a second time and ordered to be committed.

The Election Petitions Bill and the Metropolitan Subways Bill were read a second time, after a brief conversation.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes to six o'clock.

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

On Thursday, in reply to a question, Sir C. WOOD said the end of May or the beginning of June was the earliest time at which he could bring forward the Indian budget.—In reply to Mr. Peacocke, Lord PALMERSTON declined to lay on the table the opinion of the law officers in respect to the Tuscaloosa.—In reply to Mr. F. POWELL, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL was understood to say that he would introduce a bill for the consolidation of the Church Building Acts and New Parishes Acts after Easter.—Replying to Lord R. Montagu, Lord PALMERSTON said that although no official answer had been received from Denmark as to the proposed Conference, the Government had good reason to believe that the Danish Government would consent to the Conference.

#### THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER AND MR. SHERIDAN.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER entered into a lengthy explanation in reference to charges which he had brought against the British Provident Insurance Society in his speech on the Government Annuities Bill. Those charges had been denied by the hon. member for Dudley (Mr. Sheridan), and he

therefore now wished to state the result of further inquiries he had made. He then proceeded to enter into the statements, and contended that they were all correct except in one particular. He had said that an "action" was brought against Mr. J. Sheridan, the manager of the company. That was incorrect in point of form, but it was true in fact.

Mr. H. B. SHERIDAN replied to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and argued that he had failed to prove the allegations he had made. He asked the right hon. gentleman why he had not chosen for his attacks a society with which his (the Chancellor of the Exchequer's) brother was concerned, and which was just as open to question as the British Provident. He strongly condemned the attack which had been made by the right hon. gentleman on him (Mr. Sheridan), and dared him in respect of his attacks on the British Provident to make them out of doors, where he would not be sheltered by privilege.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in explanation, said the reason why he had not referred to those societies was that they did not appear to him to bear the character of fraudulent institutions. He was prepared to stand or fall upon the question as to whether he had or had not made out his allegations.

#### GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES BILL.

The debate on the Government Annuities Bill was then resumed by Sir M. FARQUHAR, who moved that the bill be referred to a select committee. Before such a tribunal the insurance offices which had been attacked could appear and give explanations, and the whole of the machinery of the bill could be looked carefully into. Mr. HORSFALL seconded the amendment, and entered into explanations in reference to some of the societies which had been mentioned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to show that the charges against them were unfounded. Mr. HODGKINSON and Mr. SALT supported the bill. Sir F. GOLDSMID believed it could not be worked satisfactorily. Mr. GREGSON supported the bill. Mr. SOTHERON ESTCOURT, while approving generally of the bill, thought that it had better be referred to a select committee. Mr. GÖSCHEN advocated the bill. Mr. AYRTON moved the adjournment of the debate. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER should strongly oppose the bill being sent to a select committee if all the insurance societies were to be heard there. He had no objection to the select committee if it was merely to inquire into the clauses of the bill. Mr. S. ESTCOURT thought this proposal a fair one. Mr. HANKEY opposed sending the bill to a select committee. Lord STANLEY approved of the proposed compromise, but thought it better at present to agree to the adjournment. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, consenting to the adjournment, said that it was to be understood the Government would be free to take its own course. The motion for adjournment was then agreed to.

#### MR. STANSFELD AND THE GRECO CONSPIRACY.

On the order for going into a committee of supply, Sir H. STRACEY moved the following resolution:—

That the statement of the Procureur-Général on the trial of Greco, implicating a member of this House and of her Majesty's Government in the plot for the assassination of our ally the Emperor of the French deserves the serious consideration of this House.

He referred to the reply given by Mr. Stansfeld to the question put to him upon this subject, observing that such reply was not considered satisfactory, and he put other questions to Mr. Stansfeld, founded upon certain letters and other documents having reference to the proceedings of M. Mazzini and others. He adverted to the obscurity that was suffered to hang over the person named Flower, and observed that, under all the circumstances, he thought his motion was not superfluous. The statement of the Procureur-Général, which was not without justification, ought to have been noticed by the Government, and the omission to take notice of it did not add to our estimation abroad.

Mr. STANSFELD justified the expression of indignation with which he had met an imputation so odious and, he said, so unsupported as that contained in the statement of the Procureur-Général. He proceeded to give a direct denial to every part of the statement, and then explained his connection with the other matters referred to by Sir H. Stracey. He denied that he had been concerned in the Tibaldi plot, or any plot. His name had undoubtedly appeared on a bank-note issued by Mazzini, but it was withdrawn as soon as he could take legal advice.

I have no objection if any other question occurs to the mind of any hon. member to answer it. (Cries of "Flower, Flower.") I can have no hesitation in answering any questions which may be put by the House. I therefore now leave the subject. ("Flower, Flower.") I should add this, if the House will allow me. I have omitted to notice one important part of the matter—the use to which my house has been put. (Hear.) Well, of course the natural consequences of the intimate personal relationship which I have never for a moment hesitated to acknowledge accounts for that. M. Mazzini's letters, as the House will easily understand, have not for many years been able to reach him through the foreign post if addressed in his own name. He has, therefore very naturally asked his various English friends—of whom I am one—(cheers and counter cheers)—to allow letters to be addressed to their houses. Letters for him have in that way been addressed to my house among others. (Hear, hear.) Those letters to him have been addressed to my house under the name which has been mentioned here. (Loud cheers from the Opposition benches.) They have been addressed to my house under the name, among others, of "Signor Fiore." I need not say that of the contents of those letters I have always been entirely ignorant. The name Flower is, as the House of course understands, the translation of the word Fiore; but I do not believe that any letter was ever addressed to my house for M. Mazzini in the name of Flower. I entirely admit at



the same time that it is not advisable, that it is not fitting, whatever may be the contents of M. Mazzini's correspondence, that it should be addressed to the residence of a person occupying the position which I have the honour to hold. (Hear.) It has not been necessary for me to make any suggestion of that kind to M. Mazzini—he has himself volunteered to state that he has taken measures to prevent his letters being addressed to my residence. ("Hear," and laughter.) I have contented myself with a simple statement of facts. I repeat that I have no knowledge of any of those transactions to which the hon. baronet refers, and I now leave this question without any further remark in the hands of the House. (Cheers and counter cheers.)

Lord H. VANE observed that the explanation of Mr. Stansfeld was more satisfactory than he had given the other night. He thought, however, that he had been guilty of great imprudence in allowing the letters to be addressed to his house.

Lord H. LENNOX said he had received the assurance from well-informed Englishmen who had just returned from France that the feeling which this matter had excited there was so strong that nothing but the powerful arm of the Emperor could have prevented such a popular ebullition as would have seriously endangered the friendly relations subsisting between the Governments of the two countries.

Mr. P. A. TAYLOR, for his own part, had no hesitation in stating that he had for many years been the intimate friend of Signor Mazzini. ("Oh, oh!" and cheers.)

He was ready to acknowledge that, in common with other friends of Signor Mazzini, he had for years past placed his address at that gentleman's disposal. ("Oh, oh!" and laughter.) He had had letters for M. Mazzini addressed to his house under a variety of names. (A laugh.) He had letters addressed to himself which contained certain indications inside to show that they were meant for M. Mazzini. Some were addressed in Italian, which he was sorry to say he did not understand—(laughter)—and those he had forwarded to M. Mazzini, stating that being written in Italian they were probably intended for him, adding, "If not you will return them to me and tell me what is in them." (Renewed laughter.)

The hon. member concluded in terms of eulogy on Mazzini.

Sir J. PAKINGTON could not agree with Lord H. Vane that Mr. Stansfeld's explanations had been satisfactory. For years he had been the intimate friend and associate of Mazzini, the friend and adviser of assassins. He asked if any communication had been made, or was intended to be made, by her Majesty's Government to that of France.

Lord PALMERSTON, who on rising was received with cheers, observed that nothing could be, in general, more painful than personal explanations in that House; but he rejoiced that Sir H. Stracey had made this motion, as it had drawn from Mr. Stansfeld a statement which he thought perfectly satisfactory—a total denial of the charge and of any cognisance of the plot.

The right hon. baronet asks me whether her Majesty's Government have made any communication to the Government of France with respect to a passage in the speech of the advocate at the trial. Well, Sir, my answer is "No." (Cheers.) We have no right to take cognisance of what takes place in a court of justice in France. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) If there was an opinion that anything which passed upon that occasion amounted to a charge against my hon. friend, that he had any connection, direct or indirect, with that assassin, an answer to the imputation, to the insinuation, was given by my hon. friend to this House, and publicly to the world—a complete refutation even to suspicion. ("Hear," and "No.") But I will fairly own that I should have felt humiliated if I had been a party to a communication to the French Government to tell them that an English gentleman, a member of Parliament holding office under the Government, was not connected with an infamous plot against the Emperor's life. (Hear, hear.) I congratulate hon. gentlemen opposite upon the feelings and sentiments which seem to actuate them upon the present occasion. (Hear, hear.) We have been reminded of the year 1858. (Hear, hear.) Then there was an attempt upon the life of the Emperor, not suspected, not intercepted, but actually made. (Hear, hear.) What did the Government of that time do? We spontaneously proposed to the House a measure—(cheers and counter cheers)—which was intended to prevent a recurrence of similar attempts. (Cheers.) Hon. gentlemen opposite formally, publicly expressed their approval of the step, and promised their support. ("Hear," and "No.") But when they found that by a combination of circumstances—(Hear)—the absolute abandonment of their own opinions would lead to a change of Government, they threw over their promises—(Hear, hear)—they cast their indignation to the winds, and, in point of fact, they refused to grant the satisfaction which they now say is due. ("Hear, hear," and "Question.") I say that the language they told on the present occasion, directed against a member of the Government, needs no explanation, except by referring to the events of that time. (Hear, hear.) With regard to my hon. friend, I say, that if I thought for a moment that my hon. friend could have had the slightest participation in the transaction to which this discussion refers, I should have represented to him that it would be more becoming that he should cease to be a member of the Government. (Hear, hear.) I have not done so; and I have not done so because I know my hon. friend to be incapable of any such participation. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, I say I do not regret the motion of the hon. baronet, because it has afforded to my hon. friend an opportunity of repeating the disclaimer which, I think, he sufficiently made upon the former occasion; but as that is not considered to have been sufficient, then I think what he has said this evening ought to be conclusive reason to the House and to the country why the motion of the hon. baronet should not be deemed acceptable. (Cheers.)

Mr. DISRAELI inveighed with much warmth against the reply of Lord Palmerston, contending that enough had occurred to require from the Govern-

ment a temperate and confidential communication with the Government of France.

After the speech of the hon. member for Halifax he (Lord Palmerston) had only to come forward and say that he should feel it his duty to make communications by which regret should be expressed that even unconsciously the house of one who is considered to be a Minister of the Crown should be made the medium and machinery of the communications of conspirators and assassins. (Cheers.) The offer has been refused—the noble lord will not assert the dignity of the House of Commons, and I think the House of Commons ought to assert its own. (Cheers.) The noble lord has rejected the proposition of my right hon. friend, made in a becoming spirit, and it is for the House of Commons to conduct itself in a spirit equally becoming. After the rejection of our proposal by the noble lord, I see no course to take sufficient to maintain the dignity of this House, and to place it in its proper position before Europe, but to support the motion of my hon. friend. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. BRIGHT thought that generally the House was ready to do justice to every one of its members. Let them not treat that question—in which the member for Halifax was so deeply involved, and in which his feelings, no doubt, had been greatly excited—in a spirit unfair and ungenerous to him. (General cheering.) They had had refugees, eminent men, from various European countries; and who was there that had not felt sympathy for some of them, though for himself he had rather discouraged the course taken by some Englishmen in that House in regard to those exiles?

I have therefore given very little favour to the enthusiasm which I have seen; but still I should despise myself; and if there be any man in this House who still stand up and say that he has never felt a particle of sympathy for the refugees who have been driven to this country—[An hon. member: "Assassins."] (Cheers)—I should despise him. (Hear, hear.) Take this case of the hon. member for Halifax and Mazzini. I believe there is no man acquainted with Mazzini who will not say that so far as can be divined from his character, from personal association with him, he is a man of profound devotion. [An hon. member: "To the dagger."] (Cheers.) It may be not to the principles of the hon. gentleman who speaks, but to the principle of the unity and independence of Italy. (Hear, hear.) Moreover, every man who has associated with him will admit he is a man of powerful and fascinating character, that he obtains over those with whom he associates a singular influence, and that there are few persons who have ever been acquainted with him personally who would not, apart from these special questions we are now discussing—[An hon. member: "Of the dagger"] (cheers)—express for him the highest esteem and admiration. ("Oh, oh!") One of the stories which the hon. baronet opposite read about refers, I believe, to thirty years ago. I don't know Mazzini's age, but I believe that at that time he might be about twenty-five. Consider what his compatriots in Italy have suffered. I think I have read somewhere that the right hon. gentleman who spoke last in one of his early writings expressed opinions which might be merely for sensational effect on his readers, but which still were opinions very much like those attributed by the hon. baronet opposite to Mazzini.

Mr. DISRAELI: There is not the slightest foundation for that statement. I give it the most unequivocal denial. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. BRIGHT: Doubtless, then, those who have quoted from the writings said to be by the right hon. gentleman—"Oh, oh!"—are in error. I accept the right hon. gentleman's statement freely, because I was not about to blame him for it. (Laughter.) It is that kind of writing which comes often in youth from the enthusiasm excited by what we were taught at school to regard as the heroic deeds of ancient days. I did not rise to say a syllable in defence of Mazzini. The observations I have made are merely for the purpose of explaining, and, if it be necessary, of justifying the friendship which has existed between the member for Halifax and Mazzini and many other eminent foreigners for many years past. But, Sir, there is not a man in this House who believes now that the hon. gentleman, on any occasion, has ever had the slightest intimation that any plot of this nature was being concocted, or was about to be carried into effect. (Cheers.)

But he would ask whether the course which was being pursued by the Opposition were worthy of a great party.

Do you believe that your leader has practised on the House with simulated horror when telling you what he believed the effect of this would be in France? I don't believe you wish to become the helpers of the police in Paris. (Hear, hear.) Don't suppose I differ from any of you who have expressed disgust and horror at the attempt on the life of the Emperor of the French. I believe there never has been a ruler on the throne of France who has been so friendly to this country—(Hear, hear)—or one more anxious to preserve peace with England. (Hear, hear.) I have said that when some of you said the very opposite, I look with indignation and horror at attempts coming from any quarter whatever, and under any provocation whatever, to plunge that great nation into the anarchy from which it is possible his life only saves it; but, at the same time, it is not necessary for you in this House to make yourselves the instruments of adding fuel to the fire that exists, or aggravating the feeling that prevails in France. (Hear, hear, and "Oh!") If you have another object, hardly less worthy—that of worrying the existing Government—"Hear, hear," and ironical cries of "Hear, hear," from the Opposition—I need not tell you that I am no partisan of the Government; I never have been, and never since a short time after its formation have I looked forward with dismay to its dissolution; but if I was as hungry as the hungriest to place myself on the Treasury bench, I should be ashamed to make my way to it over the character, the reputation, and the future of the latest appointed and youngest member of the Government. (Loud cheers.)

Lord R. CECIL condemned the facilities given by Mr. Stansfeld to such a person as Mazzini; though nobody accused him of complicity with crime, he had been guilty of culpable imprudence.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER remarked that

it was not enough for the House to have a general abstract impression that Mr. Stansfeld had acted, as Lord R. Cecil thought, indiscreetly, to induce it to adopt the motion. The Procureur-Général, as an advocate, had made an *ex parte* statement, which could not be a subject of consideration in that House. If a court of justice in France adopted that statement after its denial, the state of things would be different.

Lord C. HAMILTON addressed a very impatient House, and, after a further explanation from Mr. Stansfeld in reply to Mr. Cox, the House divided, when the numbers were,—

For the amendment ...	161
Against... ..	171

Majority against the amendment ... 10

There was great cheering from the Liberal side when it was seen from the position of the tellers in advancing to the table that the Government had a majority, and counter cheers from the Opposition when the extent of the majority was made known.

Lord PALMERSTON appealed to Mr. B. Osborne not then to bring forward his motion as to Denmark, as the papers were not complete. Mr. Osborne at first refused to comply, but subsequently yielded at the suggestion of several hon. gentlemen.

The other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned at five minutes to two o'clock.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

On Friday, in reply Sir E. Grogan, Mr. C. FORTESCUE said the right of the Hudson's Bay Company over the district between Lake Superior and British Columbia was valid. The Colonial Office was in communication with the company with a view to the transference of these territories to the Crown.

In reply to Mr. B. Osborne, Lord PALMERSTON said he doubted whether there was any Power at present competent to summon the Estates of Schleswig and Holstein. Replying to Sir H. Verney, the noble lord said he could not give an opinion as to whether a settlement in reference to Schleswig and Holstein would be come to without obtaining the opinion of those Duchies.

Mr. ADDERLEY gave notice that he should after Easter move that the minute of Committee for Education of the 19th March, on endowed schools, does not meet the objections made to the minute of May 19th, 1863.

#### THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER AND MR. SHERIDAN.

Sir J. Hay rose to move a resolution to the effect that an apology was due from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to Mr. Sheridan for the attack made upon him in connection with the British Provident Society. The SPEAKER stopped the hon. baronet on a point of order, and a long discussion ensued. Finally the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he declined to withdraw the statements he had made in respect to the society. He was prepared to prove them; and if he failed to do so would never open his mouth in the House again. As to Mr. Sheridan, if he disclaimed connection with the affairs of the society, he would willingly withdraw any imputation which he might be conceived to have cast upon him. Mr. SHERIDAN said he had known of nothing but what was legitimate in connection with the society, and had had nothing to do with it for several years. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER withdrew any imputation which he had cast on the hon. gentleman; Sir J. HAY withdrew his motion, and the matter dropped.

Lord PALMERSTON moved that the House at its rising should adjourn until Monday, the 4th of April next.

#### MR. STANSFELD.

Lord ELCHO asked if it was true that Mr. Stansfeld had tendered a formal resignation of his office to the Government.

Lord PALMERSTON regretted that the noble lord had thought fit to revive the discussion of last night. He should, however, abstain from going into that question. With reference to the question which had been put to him, after the notice which was given some days ago by Mr. Cox, Mr. Stansfeld placed his office entirely at the disposal of the Crown, and that without the slightest intimation from him (Lord Palmerston) he would tender a formal resignation of that office. His answer was that he did not wish his hon. friend to take that step, that he wished him not to take it, and if any responsibility attached to that decision, he (Lord Palmerston) was perfectly ready to take it on his own shoulders. (Cheers.)

Mr. W. E. DUNCOMBE and Alderman ROSE expressed surprise at the decision of the noble lord. Mr. W. E. FORSTER regretted that the subject had been renewed. He was persuaded that the House would not be parties to turning the hon. gentleman out of office on the grounds brought forward. After some words from Sir J. Walsh and Mr. Haliburton, Mr. HENLEY said it was very much to be regretted that Mr. Stansfeld had not at the first stated that he allowed Mazzini's letters to be sent to his house. Nobody believed that the hon. gentleman was an accomplice in any proposal to murder. As it was, it seemed to him that the Premier was a party to keeping the facts back. Mr. LAYARD briefly defended Mr. Stansfeld. Mr. OSBORNE took the Opposition to task for the part they had taken in the matter. This painful subject was somewhat assuming the aspect of painful persecution—(Hear, hear)—for no two lads recently escaped for the holidays from school could have presided over the impalement of a cockchafer with greater glee than the civic dignitary, the hon. member for Southampton, and the hon. and gallant member for Danganon had shown in the attack upon the hon.



member for Halifax. They all delighted in "painful cases," and next to roasting a bishop possibly nothing was so agreeable as baiting a member of the Administration. (Cheers and laughter.)

I have no particular confidence in her Majesty's Government or in the members of the Administration, but I should be ashamed to select one of its members, and that a very humble member, who has made his way without any aristocratic connections, and solely by his own abilities, and hunt him about and use opprobrious expressions towards him. (Cheers.) I do lament the indiscretion he committed. (Hear, hear.) I know nothing of Mazzini; and as far as I have heard of his views, I do not much like them; nor am I anxious to meet him at dinner—(laughter)—or to defend him in this House. ("Hear, hear," from the Opposition.) But let it be recollected that Mazzini has not yet been put on his trial. He has yet to undergo a trial in Paris on this very business that we are debating. If we were, what we are not, are not, a judicial assembly—for we are perfectly incapable of acting in a judicial spirit in consequence of our passions, and we incline therefore to these painful subjects—but if we were a judicial assembly we would not condemn a man unheard, without having the facts of the case before us. (Hear.) With regard to this indiscretion of the hon. member for Halifax, I would ask the House, in sober sadness, are we not carrying this matter too far? (Hear, hear.) The baronets have come out upon it very strong. First of all, there was the hon. baronet the member for Devonshire, and after him appeared a great actor, and I never heard a dramatic part played so well as that of the "Dagger and the Bowl" by the hon. baronet the member for Yarmouth, who not only spoke but looked the character to perfection. (Great laughter.) We had an animated debate last night, and came to a division. I voted in the majority, not approving altogether of the conduct of the hon. gentleman the member for Halifax, but I felt bound to take the denial he gave, which I think explicit—(Hear, hear)—and not to take a dirty advantage for wreaking vengeance on a small member of her Majesty's Government. (Hear, hear.) An hon. baronet on the other side of the House referred to that legal functionary Calcraft; but all I can say is, that if every indiscretion of hon. members in their youth is to be visited on them—(laughter)—would hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House escape? (Laughter.) I think that the course we are now pursuing is unworthy the character of English members of Parliament. (Cheers.) With regard to the hon. gentleman the member for Halifax, I think that the position he holds in the Ministry is unworthy of his talents, and if I were in his position I would at once resign. If I were the hon. gentleman, I would not consent to hold my seat on the Treasury bench with any imputation hanging over me. ("Hear, hear," from the Opposition.) If he were to resign, he must return to office again and in a better place; and sure I am that it is unworthy of us as members of Parliament, and such conduct will not be responded to by the great public out of doors, to go on baiting night after night a junior Lord of the Admiralty. (Cheers.)

Mr. S. FITZGERALD said the answer of the Premier had put a new appearance on the matter not creditable to the Government. They had now to do with the position of the noble lord, who had not removed from his Government the imputation that had been cast upon it. Mr. NEWDEGATE deprecated these discussions. There were members on the Opposition benches who had justified the acts of the brigands in Italy. Mr. D. GRIFFITH asked if Mr. Stansfeld was in order in voting in the majority the previous evening. The SPEAKER said he was. After a few words from Mr. DENMAN and Sir J. FERGUSON, the matter dropped, and the motion for adjournment was agreed to.

Mr. OSBORNE gave notice that he would bring forward a motion as to Denmark on the 19th April.

#### FORTIFICATIONS OF CORFU.

On the motion for going into committee of supply, Mr. GREGORY called attention to the demolition of the fortifications at Corfu, and moved for papers. He denounced the demolition of the fortifications, and condemned generally the policy of the Government in the East. Mr. SMOLLETT seconded the motion. Mr. LAYARD defended the Government. The debate was continued by Captain Jervis, Mr. C. Fortescue, Mr. S. Fitzgerald, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Childers, Mr. Cave, and Mr. D. Griffith. The motion was finally withdrawn. The House went into committee *pro forma*, and immediately resumed.

The other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned at twenty minutes to one, till Monday, April 4.

The following are among the notices of motion for discussion after Easter:—

THE DANISH QUESTION.—Mr. OSBORNE, on Tuesday, April 19, to draw the attention of the House to the effect of our foreign policy in Denmark and the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein; and to move that it was both unjust and inexpedient to insist upon the provisions of the Treaty of London of 1852, so far as they related to the order of succession, as the basis of a settlement of the Dano-German conflict.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.—Mr. SOMES, on Friday, the 22nd of April, to move for leave to bring in a bill to restrain the sale of these liquors on Sunday.

NARROW ESCAPE OF MINERS.—On Tuesday, a coal-mine at Chesterfield was suddenly inundated by water, and before all the miners could escape, the water rose to such a height that fourteen of the workmen were completely immured in one part of the workings. Little or no hope was entertained of their recovery alive, but every effort was nevertheless used to pump out the water; and on Thursday night the gratifying news reached their friends that all the unfortunate men had been brought out unhurt. They had taken refuge in an upper level, which was free from water.

#### PARLIAMENTARY DIVISIONS.

##### TESTS ABOLITION (OXFORD) BILL.

The following members of the Government voted or paired for the bill:—

Brand, H.	Hartington, Marquis of
Baring, T. G.	Hugessen, K.
Bruce, H. A.	Lowe, R.
Collier, Sir R. P.	Layard, A. H.
Dunbar, Sir W.	Moncreiff, A. H.
Fortescue, C.	Peel, Sir R.
Gibson, T. M.	Peel, F.
Gilpin, C.	Stansfeld, J.
Gladstone, W. E.	Villiers, C. P.
Grey, Sir G.	Wood, Sir C.
Headlam, J. E.	

The following members of the Government were absent unpaired:—

Bury, Viscount.	Palmer, Sir R.
Cowper, W. F.	Palmerston, Lord.

Seven Liberal M.P.'s voted or paired against the bill:—

Briscoe, J. I.	Gower, G. W. L. (Reigate).
Dickson, Colonel.	Grey de Wilton, Viscount.
Getty, S. G.	Walter, John.
Hamilton, Major.	

Five Conservatives voted or paired in favour of the bill:—

Churchill, Lord Alfred.	Johnstone, A. Butler.
Gaskell, J. M.	Stirling, W.
Moor, H.	

Thirty-one Scotch and twelve Welsh members voted or paired in favour of the measure. Including tellers and pairs, the bill was supported by 245 members.

##### MR. STANSFELD.

Sir H. Stracey's motion respecting the Greco conspiracy was rejected on Thursday by 171 to 161. Among its supporters were the following Liberals:—Sir J. D. Acton, Sir R. Clifton, Mr. W. Cox, Lord Elcho, J. Greene, Colonel Greville. Mr. M. Haesard, Mr. J. M'Cann, and Mr. M. W. O'Reilly. With the exception of Mr. Cox (member for Finsbury), Lord Elcho, and Sir R. Clifton, the foregoing are members of the Roman Catholic party in the House. Lord R. Montagu voted with the majority, and amongst the leading members of the Conservative party, Mr. Walpole, Mr. Bentinck, and Mr. Newdegate were absent.

#### Obituary.

THE REV. JAMES CLIFFORD HOOPER, minister of Wardour-street Congregational Church, Soho, died suddenly at his residence at Chelsea, on Sunday, March 6th, in his forty-second year. Mr. Hooper commenced his ministerial career at Millwall, Poplar, in 1847, and after a short time accepted a charge at East Dereham. Physical weakness, however, obliged him to resign a position filled with much usefulness. His health being somewhat re-established, Mr. Hooper accepted an invitation from the Congregational church, London-road, Brighton; and in May, 1856, he was invited to form a church at Chelsea, there being none of the Congregational order in that locality at the time. The congregation first met in a hall in Radnor-street, but the space being inadequate, it was resolved to build a new chapel, and a site was obtained in Markham-square. The new place of worship was erected under the personal superintendence of the pastor, and opened in April, 1860. But the anxiety and pecuniary responsibility were very trying to Mr. Hooper's delicate constitution, and in May of last year, he was under the necessity of resigning his charge. Subsequently he accepted a call from the Wardour-street Church. His acceptance was read to the church on the 3rd, and he was to have commenced his labours there on the 6th, the very day on which he died. So sudden was that event, that on the preceding day Mr. Hooper had been making all the arrangements for his Sunday ministrations, even to the selection of the hymns. As we have said, he died on Sunday, the 6th inst. He had written to one ministerial friend only a day or two prior to his death, rejoicing in the prospect of extended usefulness, among a people in whose attachment to him he felt confident. "Going home to Jesus," was almost the last expression caught from the lips of the dying pastor; a little before ten that evening he departed this life. Mr. Hooper's remains were interred in Brompton Cemetery on Friday, the 11th. There was a large attendance of friends. The Rev. R. Brindley officiated at the funeral service, the first part of which was conducted in Markham-square Church, above referred to. He was followed to the grave by the members of his own family, by the deacons of Markham-square, and likewise of Wardour-street. At the grave were observed many ministers of surrounding churches, including the Rev. W. M. Statham, Rev. J. Alexander, M.A., and the Rev. J. Bigwood. A funeral sermon was preached in Wardour Congregational Church on Sunday, the 13th, by the Rev. J. Spencer Pearsall, from the text, "My days are passed, my purposes are broken off." The church was crowded.

ALDERMAN KENION, OF BRADFORD.—In an obituary notice of Mr. Alderman Kenion, of Bradford, whose decease was recorded in our last number, the *Bradford Observer* says:—

Mr. Edward Kenion was born, of good family, at Yeadon, July 13th, 1812. Mr. Kenion was at school at Rawdon, and learnt his business with Mr. W. Anderton, of Bingley. He came to Bradford about 1836, and even

at that period found his health such as to necessitate his going for a short time to the south. He went into business in Peel-place about 1837, and in 1843 entered into partnership with Mr. Joseph Illingsworth, a partnership which continued up to the time of his decease, March 13th, 1864. In early life Mr. Kenion had been connected with the Wesleyan body. He joined the Independents at Bradford, was a member at Salem Chapel, and for some years superintendent of the Sunday-school there—a post which he relinquished eight or nine years ago from ill health. He took a conspicuous part in all the religious movements of his denomination, was treasurer of the West Riding Home Missionary Society for the Bradford district—a member of the executive committee of the same institution, and as such was present at the last district meeting, at Allerton, a week ago; and was an influential member of the committee of Airedale College. He was a steady and consistent supporter of the Liberation Society, fully appreciating the political aspects of the question, but holding these in complete subordination to the deep religious convictions under which he approached the subject. He was an untiring advocate of popular rights, but we never remember the public meeting at which his faithfulness to the working classes permitted him either to fawn upon them, or to conceal from them wholesome though unpalatable truth. He was a warm friend of education, whether in the Sunday-school or the Mechanics' Institute, and one of his recent public engagements was at a *soirée* of the Mechanics' Institute at Yeadon. He was for many years a valued member of the Committee of the Bradford Mechanics' Institute, of which he was president for the year 1863-4, and in which capacity he was only last week rendering important service in considering and maturing plans for increased accommodation. He had been an active member of the Town Council for some years, until his health necessitated a temporary retirement, but had resumed his post with returning strength as councillor for the Manningham ward, and for some time past had been elected one of the aldermen for the borough. Of the Council of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce he was an efficient and valued member. His services to these and many other similar bodies bore witness to his energy and public spirit, and his loss leaves a void which those who have been most accustomed to work with him will feel it difficult to fill up. But nowhere will Mr. Kenion be more missed than at our public meetings, whether religious, educational, or political. At these his warm heart and clear head—his earnest delivery and terse flow of thought—and, above all, his thorough sincerity and straightforwardness, all combined to render him a favourite speaker and a representative man—respected by opponents, honoured by friends, and confided in by all.

The remains of the late Mr. Edward Kenion were on Friday removed from his residence at Spring Bank-place, Bradford, and interred at Benton Park Chapel, Rawdon. The funeral procession was of considerable length, and many hundreds of persons testified their respect to the deceased by assembling in the streets to see it pass. It was headed by a detachment of police and the Corporation fire-brigade, and comprised, besides the relatives and personal friends of the departed, a large body of magistrates and gentlemen, the deputy-mayor and members of the Corporation, the president and council of the Chamber of Commerce, the committee of the Mechanics' Institute, the committee of Airedale College, and a number of gentlemen associated with Mr. Kenion at Salem Chapel. The police, and most of those taking part in the *cortège* on foot, left it at the boundary of the borough, but many went forward in carriages to the place of interment. The service in the chapel was opened by the Rev. Dr. Fraser, who read the Scriptures and offered up prayer. The Rev. J. G. Miall then delivered a strikingly appropriate and most touching address, in which the character of the departed was vividly portrayed, and the solemn event of his sudden removal affectingly dwelt upon. The coffin was borne to its final resting-place, and lowered into the grave while many tearful eyes gazed upon it. The Rev. J. Harrop, minister of Benton Park Chapel, offered prayer at the grave-side. After a few suitable words to the spectators by the Rev. J. G. Miall, the assemblage of mourners and friends dispersed.

MR. GLADSTONE ON THE FRANCHISE.—Replying on Wednesday to a deputation from the London Trades' Council on the subject of the Government Annuities Bill, Mr. Gladstone said he thought the remark of Mr. Odgers respecting the franchise perfectly justifiable; there was no doubt the Liberal party in the House of Commons had failed in their duty in this respect towards the working classes, to whom, he thought, the franchise should be extended, and about which he should shortly have something to say in the House. He regretted that the class who had obtained their franchise through the efforts of the working classes should seem so little disposed to admit them to the same privilege. He then went on to explain and defend the Annuities Bill.

THE POOR-LAW BOARD AND THE STARVATION CASES.—On Wednesday Mr. Farnall, as Poor-law Commissioner, opened an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Sarah Dove, the last of the poor creatures who have perished of starvation in Bethnal-green. The coroner's jury gave expression to a very strong opinion on the case, and the Poor-law Board has lost no time in instituting a searching investigation. Dr. Moore and other witnesses were examined at some length. The effect of the evidence generally was that the woman was neglected by her husband. Christey, the relieving-officer, said he had ordered the whole family into the workhouse, instead of complying with an order issued by Dr. Moore for the admission of the woman to the infirmary, because the husband was in regular work. The inspector will report to the Poor-law Board the result of the inquiry.



## Literature.

## SHAKSPEARE PORTRAITS.\*

While the National Shakspeare Committee is planning a statue in commemoration of the three-hundredth year of our great dramatist's birth, it is most appropriate that an investigation into the authenticity of the various existing portraits of him should be attempted by some one qualified for the labour, alike by true love of the subject, by accurate and complete knowledge, and by an acquaintance with art. Such an attempt has been made by Mr. Hain Friswell, in a volume of which we give the title below; in which he has proved himself to be thoroughly competent for the task, and has laid all Shakspearians under considerable obligations. It is true that others have written ably though less formally and extendedly on the subject; but none has at once so fully described and so carefully criticised the monumental bust and various reputed portraits of Shakspeare. It is true, too, that there are many engravings of Shakspeare that have no notice here; but their importance is not great, their authority nothing at all. Mr. Friswell has made a sufficiently large and a perfectly judicious selection.

When we desire to know "what manner of man" he was who created the characters of Hamlet and Macbeth, Shylock and Iago, Falstaff and Falconbridge, Cordelia and Helena, Ophelia and Imogen, and of the glorious groups of equally living persons who as we name these pass across the stage of the mind, we feel a pang of regret that his certain biography is no more than is contained in the concise sentence of Steevens, so often quoted,—"that he was born at Stratford-on-Avon; married, and had children there; went to London, where he commenced actor, and wrote poems and plays; returned to Stratford, made his will, died, and was buried." The only life we have of the inner man is in his works. Of his form and feature we have authentic testimony, but scarcely from hands which can be considered skilful enough to represent him adequately. The first folio of Shakspeare's works contains the well-known etching of Droeshout, accompanied by commendatory verses by Ben Jonson; while other verses by Leonard Digges refer to the bust at Stratford, which had been erected before this volume appeared in 1623. We have thus two important authorities for the resemblance to Shakspeare, whom these writers had seen and known, of one engraved portrait and of the bust above his grave; and it is by these that all other supposed representations of Shakspeare must be tested. Still, there are evident exaggerations in the portrait—evident failure to give the living look; while the bust is plainly the work of one not much practised, and having no claim to be considered an artist;—indeed, it is more than suspected that a blundering accident with the chisel has shortened the nose and unduly lengthened the upper lip. We are, however, unhappily dependent on these chiefly for a portrait of Shakspeare. As the bust is first in date, we shall let Mr. Friswell himself describe it:—

"The monument, at the first sight, strikes one as small. The head is oval, and is very fleshy, the jaw being heavy and massive, and the cheek round and full. It is, from its being coloured, by no means a sombre thing to contemplate, but has a cheerful, living look. The forehead is broad and full, but not very high, especially if one were to imagine the hair which originally covered it. The eyes are very full, the nose a fleshy English nose, described by a clever author as 'cogitative,' but very short; for the nose of the bust of Shakspeare, like that of Tristram Shandy, it is said, has met with an accident, the former from the instrument of Dr. Slop, the latter from the chisel of the sculptor. The upper lip is very long, at least one-inch and a quarter as we measured it; the whole face is eight inches and three-quarters in length. The nostrils are raised and drawn up, a fact often quoted as a proof that the sculptor worked from a cast taken after death. . . . The skull of the figure, rudely cut and heavy, without any feeling, is a mere block; a phrenologist would be puzzled at its smoothness and roundness. It has no more individuality or power in it than a boy's marble. The cheeks are fat and sensual, the neck just rounded out of the soft stone; the linen collar of the dress like a sheet of bent black tin. Still, a certain veneration and love for the old statue must be accorded by all lovers of Shakspeare; bad as it is, it is the most universally accredited and beloved likeness of the poet. It has moreover a certain *bonhomie*, good nature, a fair and upright look about it, which most likely the poet had, for it was accepted by his contemporaries as a successful likeness, and no doubt fairly paid for by his son-in-law, Dr. Hall, who, it may be supposed, was the author of the inscription on the marble slab below the bust."

The name of the sculptor was Gerard Johnson, as we learn from "Dugdale's Correspondence,"—"a Hollander, and a tombe-maker," who appears to have had journeymen and apprentices enough

to turn out many sepulchral monuments, of which "another, that of John Combe, a heavy, stiff, and graceless block," is also to be found in Stratford Church. There is reason, then, to conclude, that this bust is a tolerably faithful if not very flattering representation of the poet; and that it may have been executed from a cast from the face taken after death.

Such a cast is said to exist. It is in the possession of Professor Owen, of the British Museum. Its story is briefly this:—A German nobleman, an ambassador to the Court of James I., was a great admirer of Shakspeare, and, as a memorial of him, bought the cast from the sculptor of the tomb, and took it to his own country. He employed a pupil of Vandyke to paint a miniature from it; and both mask and miniature remained in his family for many generations, till they came to the last of his race, a dignitary of the Church in Cologne. At the sale of his effects they passed to an antiquary of Mayence, and eventually came into the possession of a Herr Becker, who brought them to London some twenty years ago; but failing to make his conviction of their authenticity generally accepted, left them in the custody of Professor Owen, who still retains them, it being believed that the Dr. Becker who perished in Australia with the ill-fated exploring party of Burke and Wills, was the owner of this supposed mould of Shakspeare's face. Opinion is divided as to its authenticity. In many respects it is unlike every known portrait of Shakspeare; yet good judges have professed to see the living man beneath the pinched, wasted, dead features, and Fanny Kemble wept on viewing it. It must ever remain a matter of speculation as to whether its supposed history is more than a tradition.

The Droeshout etching is much more interesting to those who have less imagination than the defenders of the cast. It is said by Mr. Friswell, justly, that "it agrees in all particulars with the bust, except in the position of the beard, which in the print is shaven from the chin, and grows immediately under the upper lip, and the hair, which is straight in the print, and in the bust falling in curls; the forehead is equally ample, high, and bold." Ben Jonson's testimony is, that

—"The graver had a strife  
With nature to outdoe the life."

—and, being published by Shakspeare's fellow-players, we must, in spite of Malone and Britton, and others, accept this portrait as having a worth beyond any other existing.

The "Chandos Portrait," which has had, and has, so many defenders, is rather more out of favour than formerly. It is the one portrait in oil that can bring decent proof of its authenticity. It presents to us, says Mr. Friswell, "a dark, heavy man, with a foreign expression, of a decidedly Jewish physiognomy, thin curly hair, a somewhat 'lubricious mouth, red-edged eyes, wanton lips, with a coarse expression, and his ears tricked out with earrings." We ourselves don't think as ill of the expression as our author; and, considering that earrings were in Shakspeare's time worn by men, it seems not improbable that a player, more than most, would wear them. But the objection to the portrait is, that it is very unlike the bust and etching already described, and received on such good grounds as authentic. Looking at its indisputable history from the time of Sir William Davenant, in 1668, there is much in its favour. And we have certainly seen portraits of living friends by eminent painters, differing as widely from photographs of them, as this does from the Droeshout etching. The suggestion is not unworthy of consideration, that the poet-actor may here be represented "in character"—say, as his own Shylock. Those who desire to study the picture may do so at the National Portrait Gallery.

We do not propose to follow Mr. Friswell through the history of "the Felton Head," which he pronounces "damnatory to the fact of its genuineness"—a verdict in which we agree—or of the newly-discovered portrait at Stratford, now placed in the house of the poet, which is, in our judgment, both on its story and on its merits, the most unmistakeable imposture of all the assumed Shakspeare portraits, and in all probability nothing more than a memento of the Garrick Jubilee, painted by some Warwickshire amateur as a decoration for that great festival. The Jansen portrait might much more justifiably detain us; but, interesting as it is, as a "beautifully painted portrait of a very handsome man, refined, intellectual, full of sparkling energy and cleverness," it is yet too uncertain to be accepted as our Shakspeare, though we might well wish to be assured that it is so.

Mr. Friswell discusses fully the claims of various less authenticated portraits, as also the characteristics of certain forgeries, and of several well-known prints. The story of these contains no little warning for the collector, and inculcates self-distrust on those who are inclined to be con-

fident in the identification of the art-work of former days.

Every student of our dramatist will desire to add this beautiful volume to his collection of "Shakspeariana"; and, indeed, it might well be regarded as the proper companion of every biography and edition of his works. It is illustrated by photographs, which are simply as perfect as can be conceived. That of the Stratford bust is the only representation that gives to us the impression produced on our minds by the original. The Chandos portrait is excellently rendered. The Jansen is beautiful, though from an engraving, and not from the picture itself, the use of which was refused. The Felton head is very interesting. The Droeshout portrait is given in perfect transcript. The Stratford picture comes out better than itself. There are also delightful views of the poet's house, of Anne Hathaway's cottage, and of the chancel of Stratford Church.

## REV. C. NEVILLE'S "POLITICAL NONCONFORMITY."\*

Mr. Neville's great strength lies in the singleness of his purpose, the intensity of his convictions, and the undoubted evidence he has given of his own conscientiousness. There is all the difference in the world between him and men who are Dissenters by tradition, by education, or as the natural result of the circumstances in which they have been placed, who have never carefully thought out the principles of their own Nonconformity, whose personal tastes indispose them to controversy, who look at the æsthetic side of the Episcopal Church, or the amount of practical good done by numbers of its clergy, and who quietly ignore those sterner facts which reveal the true character and workings of a State Church. Men of this class will be at a loss to comprehend Mr. Neville's fervour: while he, who has fought his way to his present position, in defiance of numberless influences that were at work to warp his judgment, wonders, in his turn, and as we think very naturally, how those who profess to share his opinions, can be so indifferent to truths, for the sake of which he has made sacrifices which are not to be measured by the loss of property or social position he has sustained.

It is greatly to Mr. Neville's credit that his earnestness does not betray him into severe denunciation of those whom he has left behind in the Establishment. The conflict which he has had to wage himself has been too severe for him to speak lightly of those who are still in the midst of its agonies, or who may have succumbed to the influences he was able to overcome. But while scrupulously tender to the feelings of individuals, no consideration restrains him when dealing with things. He sees Christ dishonoured, the authority of His Gospel set at naught, the most sacred institutions converted into mere political instruments, and as the result of the whole, the souls of men imperilled, and he can neither be silent nor be content to employ soft conventional phrases to hide the true character of great moral and spiritual wrongs. There is a remarkable directness in his style which adds much to the force of his arguments. He is too thoroughly possessed with his subject to use courtly language or polish his sentences until their edge is gone. The more keen, pointed, and incisive, he can make his statements, the better is he satisfied. The controversy is too old, and the ground which it covers has been too often trodden, for it to be possible for any one to find arguments or even illustrations that are actually new, but Mr. Neville has certainly manipulated his materials with such skill that there is freshness as well as vigour in his reasonings. Remarkable clearness of conception, thorough straightforwardness of character, the absence of strong prejudices, a fearless resolve to go to the very heart of things, and great skill in choosing out the most appropriate words, all unite to make his appeals unusually telling. It may be easy to pooh-pooh them, but it will be hard indeed to give them a satisfactory answer.

Apart from any opinion as to the particular mode of action which Nonconformists should adopt, Mr. Neville at least proves that the *laissez-faire* policy is one utterly inconsistent with their obligations to their Master and the truth they profess to have learned from Him. At first sight he seems to put the case somewhat strongly when, referring to a clergyman who lacks the courage to secede, he says, "I beg to tell Dissenters that he sank under their difficulties, gave way to their temptation, he subscribed their Articles and formularies, he swore their oaths, and he has not resolution to undergo their punishment." It is certainly only in a

\* *Life Portraits of William Shakspeare*. By J. HAIN FRISWELL. Illustrated by Photographs and Views, by Cundall, Downes, and Co. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Co.

*Political Nonconformity: A Letter to Charles Robertson, Esq.* By the Rev. CHRISTOPHER NEVILLE. London: Arthur Miall.



qualified sense that the laws which expelled Nonconformists from the Establishment and long deprived them of their political rights, and still inflict on them great social injustice, can be called *their* laws. But is it not true that, in a community like ours, those who have political power and refuse to employ it for the removal of such evils have a certain measure of responsibility for their continued existence? This is the lesson which Mr. Neville seeks to enforce, and we cannot ourselves see how it is possible to accept his premises and reject his conclusion. Nonconformists surely cannot be content to have any complicity in the perpetuation of a system which dishonours the truth of God, and places a so-called Church in the "state of confusion, degradation, and absurdity," which we witness at present. If the "special circumstances" which some contend could alone justify aggressive action "have not already arisen, they surely never will or can arise, and if known and admitted facts do not now justify, or . . . compel as a duty, the political action of every Nonconformist, all notion of political action or responsibility must be given up for ever."

#### "MISSIONS APOSTOLICAL AND MODERN."

As the title indicates, the object of this volume is to arouse the Church to greater zeal in missionary work, by an appeal to the constitution and example of the early Apostolic church. Any and every effort which is made to bring the great duty of missionary labour more prominently before the Christian world, must always command our sympathy; and certainly we are not inclined to withhold it, where such a strong plea as this is urged, which points back for its arguments to the very essentials and conditions upon which the Church of God is founded.

The spirit in which this whole book is written is catholic, manly, and hopeful: but this only makes us lament the more, an infelicitous treatment of so noble a theme. A more useful treatise might have been compiled,—useful to the church at home, and useful also to the missionary himself—if the modern church had been still more fully directed to apostolic precedent. Difference of age and of climate do not affect materially the great types of the human mind: dispositions which existed in the age of the Apostles are to be found now, and will have to be treated in the same way: and the missionary sermons and conduct of Paul are authoritative guides for those who are now following in his footsteps. The minister in India, perhaps, would find himself more powerful were his sermons adapted to the Hindoos as Paul adapted himself to the deuter in Cyprus; and the missionary to the more savage tribes will find a model for all his discourses in the speech given at Lystra.

But instead of such a course being pursued, as we might have expected from the title-page, what we really have is a critical exposition of the thirteenth and fourteenth chapters of the Acts—too learned for the general reader, not sufficiently so for the real Biblical student; or at any rate to such only burdened with what may be found more fully elsewhere. Just to notice one or two cases, chosen almost at haphazard;—at page 116, a note informs us that John-Mark is said by uniform tradition to be the author of the second gospel. This is believed absolutely as a fact by the majority, while scholars are fully acquainted with the *pro's* and *con's* of the question; while, after all, whether Mark really was or is only presumed to be the author of the gospel is perfectly immaterial to the question of Christian missions. In the same way it is investigated whether we should read deputy or proconsul, though for the subject before us it matters not which. The word *areolas* is twice dealt with, and the conclusion is drawn that "there must have been something peculiarly penetrating in the Apostle's gaze." If there were, it is nothing in the question of modern missions; though, to show how dangerous such refined criticism is, if the word warrants such a belief, we must conclude that it was an Apostolic peculiarity, as the word is used of the disciples gazing after their ascended Lord.

A careful verbal criticism was necessary to any one who proposed to write upon these chapters, but it is only cumbersome to the general reader. Another grievous error into which Mr. Briggs has been led by the course which he has adopted, is that he has attempted to fill up the bare outline of the narrative with his own conjectures. For our own part, we have always been disappointed with every attempt at painting, either in words or colours, anything related in Scripture. The Divine skill too far transcends any human power for these attempts

to succeed, and it is wiser to recollect that here as elsewhere "our ways are not his ways, nor our thoughts his thoughts."

The mode of service at Antioch, and the manner of the journey through Cyprus, are instances of this unnecessary and distasteful supposition, but sometimes Mr. Briggs seems to have been led by his own theories into conjecture. Believing himself, but as it seems to us on insufficient grounds, that the Early Church was but one, or at any rate, that Jerusalem was metropolitan to Antioch, he is of necessity next obliged to suppose that when Barnabas was sent to that latter church it was to check not to encourage preaching to the Grecians, and that it was only when he arrived there that his "judgment wavered"—that when he went to seek Paul it was by the direction of the Metropolitan Church, although there seems no ground upon which this can be asserted. In the same way, in arguing that the twofold mission is invariable, he is led to attribute Paul's comparative failure at Athens to his being there alone; and again, as it seems to us, upon pure conjecture. Whether, however, we consider that the course has Apostolic authority or not, it is well worthy the attention of the Church, to see that, wherever it is possible, not less than two should be sent upon one mission.

The style is occasionally easy and fluent, but more often difficult and displeasing, and scarcely so popular we think as the subject deserves or is capable of. We have been led to point out these defects from the high estimate we have formed of the subject itself as a guide and strong argument in missionary work, of very much in the book which is pertinent to the subject, and of the zeal which the author displays for the accomplishment of the Kingdom of the Father.

#### BRIEF NOTICES.

*Counsel and Comfort Spoken from a City Pulpit.* By the Author of "Recreations of a Country Parson." (Strahan and Co.) We said of "The Graver Thoughts of a Country Parson," that it was to us a more delightful as well as more valuable book than any of the author's lighter works. We seem to be nearer the man, in all the best and highest of his faculty, experience, and attainment. This new volume, of the same order, and calling for no special criticism, is richer still, and more powerful. "Man Come to Himself," "Departed," "Trouble and Welcome Rest," "The Desire to be Remembered," "Consequences," and "The Limits of Human Experience," may be named as amongst the finest fruits of the author's inseeing thoughtfulness and practical wisdom, and as excellent specimens of sermons out of beaten tracks. The volume is introduced by an essay, with which its readers had previous acquaintance, on "The Close of Holiday-time, with some Thoughts on Pulpits." Mr. Boyd's peculiar power as a preacher, and as a religious writer, derives itself from the dominant desire which he has himself formerly described—"desire to make those who listen to him feel that religion is a real thing, with the most practical bearing on all the interests of life; and not a thing quite beside and beyond our daily experience." Our readers will not need to be advised as to making acquaintance with this new and welcome volume.—*Lyra Domestica*: Second Series. Translated from the German of C. J. P. SPITTA, and other favourite Hymn-writers. By RICHARD MASSIE. (Longman and Co.) It appears that this second collection of hymns by Spitta was published by him in 1843, and contains his last writings; so that they are the ripe fruit of his Christian experience, as well as his most matured poetic efforts. For their spiritual character, their elevated devotion, their various flow of genuine feeling, and their intense practicalness, they are precious indeed to the personal religious life; though generally little fitted for public use or even social song. We think less highly of their poetical attributes than did some of the admirers of the first series. The volume is completed by translations from Bunsen's hymn-book, principally from Paul Gerhardt; with the addition of a few original compositions by the translator. Mr. Massie has done well on the whole. It might be expected that we should find restrained movement and awkward collocations of words occasionally; but they are not numerous. We are grateful to be permitted to add the little book (elegantly produced) to our collection of devotional verses for the hours of retirement and meditation.—*Reason and Revelation.* By R. S. CANDLISH, D.D. (T. Nelson and Sons.) Dr. Candlish tells us that he thought this work had "gone very far into oblivion"; and that he therefore felt free to use a revision of one of its chapters as his introductory lecture at the New College, Edinburgh, this session. That circumstance led to his views on Inspiration being rather freely canvassed; and especially, as all our readers will know, were they commented upon by Dr. Colenso and the Duke of Argyll. Dr. Candlish, in a very vigorous and sometimes biting preface, of some twenty pages, replies to these two critics, and vindicates his views from the liberality they attributed to him. Certainly he disposes very effectively of Dr. Colenso's use of his stated views,—very effectively, we say, if not very courteously, though some warmth and severity

might well be excused. We find ourselves at a wide distance from the author on many points treated in his five essays; and we think much that he maintains irreconcilable with any view of the Bible that grounds itself on the observation of its phenomena, or with any sound defence of its absolute authority. Yet the book deserves to be added to the student's literature of the subject, as an acute and strong effort from a defined position to advance the controversy to which it belongs.—*A History of Baptism, from the Inspired and Uninspired Writings.* By J. T. HINTON; Revised by J. H. HINTON, M.A.; with Preface and Appendix by F. W. GOTCH, LL.D. "Bunyan Library," Vol. 12. (Heaton and Son.) The introduction of this work into the "Bunyan Library" will, we should think, be acceptable to the Baptist denomination generally. Dr. Gotch does "not commit himself to every particular statement." Baptists, as well as Pædobaptists, may indeed take exception to a work which reasons, without cautionary note from the editors, on passages of the New Testament (Mark and Acts) the genuineness of which has no support from any important manuscript; and which treats as a sectarian absurdity and a "last refuge" that which is a grammatical canon with a scholar like Winer. But the book is indispensable to any collection on the subject of baptism, and has been familiar to us many years.—*The Works of Thomas Goodwin, D.D.* Vol. 8. "Library of Puritan Divines." (J. Nichol.) We need but record the progress of this great work,—and state that the present volume, appearing with praiseworthy punctuality, contains the author's elaborate treatise on "The Object and Acts of Justifying Faith."—*Wayside Thoughts*: by A CHRISTIAN PILGRIM (Emily Faithfull.) We learn that these pious verses written in 1860-62, proceed from one who has known many months of unalleviated pain, and who has made these compositions "the recreation of dreary days, and the solace of suffering nights." To "comfort others with the consolation" with which she (?) herself has been "comforted of God," is the aim of her volume. It is everywhere thoughtful, spiritual, and full of vitality. It breathes trust and confidence, meekness and submission, and throbs with deep love and joy even in its pathetic utterance of sorrow and weariness. It is so evidently real, that all sufferers will feel its sympathetic character, and its testimony, and its soothing power. If it have little art-perfection, and no strong poetic colouring, it has much that is more precious in itself, and fitter to its special purpose.—*Across the River: Twelve Views of Heaven.* (Edinburgh: W. P. Nimmo.) A little pocket volume, elegant in form, and rich in matter. The contents are from the pens of Jay and Winter Hamilton, among the dead, and Norman Macleod, James Parsons, James Hamilton, and others of the living. These names will commend it. It is infinitely more valuable than the sentimental and rhetorical books on heaven that have lately had such an evil popularity: but there are some things even here that ring to the ear rather than sound in the heart. On the whole, we like it, and commend it warmly. Some of the interspersed selected verses are very beautiful.—*The Palm Tree.* By S. MOODY. With Illustrations by the Author. (T. Nelson and Sons.) A book on some of the principal members of the family of Palms, written, not for the botanical student, but to interest the general reader,—by one whose enthusiasm for her subject proceeds from the remembrance of the coco-palms of her West Indian island-home,—and containing a great deal of information pleasantly conveyed. But its special purpose is, to illustrate all the Scripture notices of palms—"to unfold the countless lovely analogies suggested by the subject"—and thus to show the palm tree as a sort of typical "Servant of God and Friend of man." The only fault we will find is, that the chapters on the Biblical palm-similitudes are written with too much effort. The brilliant coloured illustrations are not always perfectly truthful, but in many respects are very creditable to the author's artistic abilities, and add much to the popular attractiveness of the book. And it is really a worthy book, as the product of love, intelligence, and much industry.

#### LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

Sir J. Bowring has presented to the British Museum his very fine collection of insects made during his long residence in the East. The Bowringian collection, as it is called, consists of 84,200 specimens.

Mrs. Somerville, the eminent astronomer, is at Genoa, on a visit. Although more than fourscore years old, she is said to be engaged upon a work of literary importance; and such is the fine tone of her constitution that she can read the smallest print and thread a needle without spectacles.

Mr. E. M. Ward has just completed another of the series of pictures with which he is commissioned to decorate the Commons' corridors in the Houses of Parliament. This work has been executed in the stereochrome or water-glass material, and by its brilliancy and clearness, as well as by the facility with which it has been produced, testifies to the suitability of that method of treatment. It is one of Mr. Ward's most successful pictures, and does him great honour in its technical excellencies. The subject is, "The Landing of Charles II. at Dover, at the Restoration."

Messrs. Low and Co. and Strahan and Co. will publish immediately a small volume entitled, "Work

\* *Missions Apostolical and Modern.* By FREDERICK W. BRIGGS. London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co.



and Play," by Horace Bushnell, author of "Nature and the Supernatural."

"Our Mutual Friend" is the title of Mr. Charles Dickens's new serial, to begin on the last day in April.

Mr. Bentley will publish, on the 21st instant, M. Guizot's "Memoirs of a Minister of State from 1840."

Messrs. Macmillan announces a rejoinder from Mr. Charles Kingsley to Dr. Newman, entitled, "What, then, does Mr. Newman teach?"

## Court, Official, and Personal News.

Wednesday being the anniversary of the beloved and revered Duchess of Kent's loss (the official *Court Circular* states that) the Queen and Royal family, attended by Lady Augusta Stanley and Lady Fanny Howard, repaired to the mausoleum of the Duchess at Frogmore, where the statue of her Royal Highness (a cast, shortly to be replaced in marble) was uncovered. Over the statue is the following inscription:—

Her children rise up and call her blessed.  
The following lines, by Mr. Tennyson, are also inscribed:—

Long as the heart beats life within her breast  
Thy child will bless thee, guardian, mother mild,  
And far away thy memory will be blest  
By children of the children of thy child.

On Sunday morning the Queen, the King of the Belgians, the Princesses Helena, Louise, and Beatrice, and the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, attended Divine service in the Private Chapel. The Bishop of London preached the sermon.

According to present arrangements her Majesty and the Royal family will remain at Windsor Castle till about the 21st of April, when the Queen and members of the Court will remove to Osborne, where they will reside for about three weeks, and afterwards return to Windsor Castle for a short period. On leaving Windsor, the Queen will proceed to Balmoral.

The Princess Louise on Friday attained her 16th year, and the event was celebrated in the customary manner at Windsor and London.

The first drawing-room of the season was held by the Princess of Wales on Saturday. There was a full attendance, and many presentations. The Princess Helena as well as the Prince of Wales was also present. The Princess of Wales wore a blue velvet train, ornamented with silver cord and tassels; a petticoat of white satin, with Brussels lace flounces, and trimmings of blue velvet and silver flowers; the head-dress a tiara of diamonds with feathers, and tulle veil with silver stars. Her Royal Highness also wore a necklace, brooch, and earrings of pearls and diamonds, a corsage of the City diamonds, and the Portuguese Order of Isabella.

Mr. John Tilley, senior assistant secretary to the Post Office for many years, has been appointed as the successor of Sir Rowland Hill.

The Civil Service Estimates for the ensuing year are 347,479*l.*, showing a net increase of 19,836*l.* over last year.

The second reading of Mr. Baines's Borough Franchise Bill is fixed for Wednesday, the 11th May.

The Duke of Newcastle has been seriously ill, but according to a medical report on Monday, the danger has passed away. The Prince of Wales, Lord Palmerston, Earl Russell, Earl de Grey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and many other friends of his grace, having been among the inquirers at his hotel.

A Post-Office notice states that the mail service between Galway and America has been suspended until further notice.

## Miscellaneous News.

STATE OF LANCASHIRE.—According to the report presented on Monday to the Central Executive Relief Committee, there has been during the last fortnight a decrease of 6,737 paupers in the twenty-seven unions of the cotton manufacturing districts.

THE CORNWALL LUNACY CASE.—The trial of Samuel Porter, of Flushing, near Falmouth, for maltreating and wilfully neglecting his brother, Robert Porter, a lunatic under his charge, was concluded on Thursday before Mr. Baron Martin, at Bodmin. The case, it will be recollected, created a great sensation a few months ago. The jury found the prisoner guilty of neglect, but recommended him to mercy. Sentence was postponed till the opinion of the Court of Appeal shall be known, and the prisoner was discharged on his own recognisance.

THE DOUBLE-SCREW STEAMER.—The new double-screw steamer *Atalanta*, 500 tons burden, 200 feet long, with two screws worked by separate engines, has been tried at sea. She did in tolerably smooth water 22½ miles in 75 minutes, and ran from Dover to Calais on Thursday, a rough day, in 77 minutes. This is an average rate of 17 miles and a fraction, which, if it could be obtained on large steamers at a decent expenditure of coal, would nearly double the speed of the ocean mails.

THE YEOMANRY CAVALRY.—A numerous and very influential deputation of Yeomanry Cavalry officers had an interview on Wednesday with Lord Palmerston, urging the desirableness of not suspending the training of the force. His lordship said the Government had carefully considered the subject, and within the last few days advices had been received from New Zealand which were so favourable that the Government would be enabled to appro-

priate 50,000*l.* of the New Zealand vote to the training of the Yeomanry. He therefore had great pleasure in informing the deputation that the force would be called out as usual this year.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—A lecture on capital punishment was delivered by the Rev. Newman Hall at Surrey Chapel on Monday evening. The chair was taken by Mr. C. Gilpin, M.P., who in an earnest and able speech strongly advocated the abolition of death punishments.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The following is the result of the examination for the degree of master in surgery:—

PASS LIST.—Richard Whitfield Hewlett, M.D., King's College; Walter Rivington, B.A., M.B., London Hospital; Richard Patrick Burke Taaffe, M.B., St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

HONOURS LIST.—First Class.—R. Whitfield Hewlett, M.D., scholarship and gold medal, King's College; Walter Rivington, M.B., gold medal, London Hospital. This was the first examination for the M.S. degree in this University.

THE GREAT BOAT-RACE between the two Universities came off on Saturday at the old place—between Putney and Mortlake. The weather was extremely fine, and greater crowds than ever witnessed the interesting event. Cambridge obtained a little advantage soon after the start, but the superior energy and skill of the Oxford men soon became apparent, and having once got ahead, they steadily kept it to the end. Oxford won by more than a dozen lengths. The Prince of Wales was present in a steamer.

GOOD FRIDAY AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—Performance on the Great Handel Festival Organ, and by the band of the Coldstream Guards, will commence early in the day. The concert will take place on the Handel Orchestra, at half-past three. The executants, besides a full chorus, comprise the band of the company, military bands, &c., and will be under the direction of Mr. Manns. Mr. Sims Reeves will sing three of his most favourite solos, "If with all your hearts," from Elijah; "The enemy said," from Israel in Egypt; and "Comfort ye, my people," from the Messiah. Madame Rudersdorff will sing, "Let the bright seraphim," and Mr. Weiss, "The trumpet shall sound," with trumpet obbligato by Mr. Harper. Mr. Weiss and Mr. Patey will sing "The Lord is a Man-of-War," from Israel in Egypt. Selections from the "Stabat Mater," of Rossini, will also be performed, and the "Old Hundredth Psalm," the evening hymn, and the National Anthem, always a great feature on these occasions, will be sung by the assembled tens of thousands of visitors, backed up by the full orchestra and chorus. It is expected that the concert will terminate at half-past five, and to afford ample opportunity for visitors to leave leisurely, the palace will be brilliantly lighted up in the evening.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.—On Wednesday evening the eleventh annual distribution of prizes to scholars of ragged-schools who have kept their situations over twelve months, took place under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury, at Exeter Hall. Those who were to receive prizes occupied a considerable portion of the hall, but the only indication of their connection with the worst neighbourhoods in and about the metropolis was the display of a number of banners, bearing the names of the localities in the city of London, in Westminster, in Lambeth, Camberwell, Walworth, and Deptford, in which these schools have been established. The prizes, consisting of small sums of money and certificate cards with a portrait of the Earl of Shaftesbury, are only open to those between the ages of 12 and 17, but during the ten years no less than 6,000 of these rewards have been distributed. On the present occasion there were from the 70 schools 530 applications, from 244 boys and 286 girls, and money prizes were awarded to 174 of the former and 208 of the latter, 40 boys and 56 girls receiving cards only. Of the whole number 362 had been in their situations less than 2 years, 127 under 3, 48 under 4, 17 under 5, 12 under 6, and 3 under 7 years. Appropriate addresses were delivered by the Earl of Shaftesbury, Mr. J. Payne, the Rev. A. M'Causland, and other gentlemen who take an interest in the Ragged School Union; but the great feature of the evening was the reading, by Madame Ernestine, of Mrs. Sewell's poem, "Mother's Last Words," which was listened to with attention and with evident sympathy in the honest struggles of the two motherless crossing-sweepers by the children present. Framed copies of the certificate cards were presented by the committee to the noble chairman, and Mr. Payne. Sir R. W. Carden, the Hon. Cecil Ashley, Lady Edith Ashley, and the Hon. Mrs. W. Cowper were amongst those present.

MORE VICTIMS OF CRINOLINE.—Last Monday week Mrs. Hackett met her husband at the Fenchurch-street Station, and then went home by the train to Hackney Wick, he following her on foot. When Mr Hackett reached the corner of Hedger's-grove, where he resides, the first thing he saw was a great blaze of light shining through the window of his own house. It was his wife, who was enveloped in a sheet of flame. Upon her arrival the poor lady had gone to her bedroom and taken off her dress, and while she was engaged in some toilet operations her wide hoops tilted against the bars of the grate, and her clothing instantly took fire. She stood for a moment terrified, then rushed up the staircase a pyramid of flame, shrieking in agony. She was wrapped in blankets, but all in vain—the fire raged fiercely within the huge cage in which it was imprisoned, and, moreover its size caused her struggles to displace the covering which had been placed upon

her, letting in fresh air to feed the blaze. It seems probable that before help reached her she was too severely burnt to have survived—but, at any rate, within a few hours after her admission to the hospital she died in frightful torture; and of a newly made bride, young, blooming, and light-hearted, nothing but a charred corpse remained. Only a week afterwards there occurred at Carlisle another catastrophe equally full of horror. Among a party of friends who had gone last Monday on a visit of inspection to the biscuit factory of Messrs. Joseph Robinson and Co. in that city was Miss Mary Nelson, and she was accompanied by Mr. Burrows, to whom she was to have been married within a few weeks. The party had not been more than two minutes in the mill, and were still examining the basement storey, when a piercing shriek from Miss Nelson, who had tarried slightly in their rear, made them pause in terror. Her attention had been attracted by an Archimedean screw, which was fenced by a brass rod breast high—but, when she stopped to look at it, her expanded skirts were caught by the machinery, and when her friends turned to look at her, it was rapidly drawing her into its grasp. Mr. Burrows clasped his betrothed round the waist, and strove to draw her back—but the steel of her hoops had been clutched by the wheels, and all his efforts were powerless. The engine dragged her out of her lover's arms, and whirled her round and round before his eyes; all her limbs were shivered into fragments, and her body was lacerated and mangled almost out of human semblance.

HOUSES FOR THE LABOURING CLASSES.—On Saturday Lord Stanley presided at a meeting at the Mansion-house of the Association for Improving the Dwellings of the Labouring Classes, of which he is chairman. It appeared from statements made in the course of the proceedings that the subscribed capital of the society is 27,200*l.*, and upwards of 3,000*l.* had been received in advance of calls, on which 5 per cent. is being received. Some delay in building had arisen, but without any loss of money. There had been considerable difficulty in finding sites, but that had been partly surmounted. The society had entered into negotiations for the purchase, for 840*l.*, of eight small freehold houses known as Hamilton-row and Hamilton-place, Bagnigge Wells-road. An agreement for a lease of 99 years of a piece of land in Wapping, close to the Tunnel, had been entered into with the Governors of Bridewell Hospital. The society was also negotiating for a lease for 80 years from the Metropolitan Board of Works of a plot of ground in Redcross-street, closely abutting on the New-street, Southwark. Further negotiations had been entered into to obtain sites at King's-cross, Victoria-street, and in Shoreditch. The plot in Bagnigge Wells-road was about 4,000 square feet, and the estate at Wapping, upon which buildings would be erected at a cost of upwards of 7,000*l.*, was 19,000 square feet. These were very conveniently situated for the purpose for which they would be used. The Southwark estate had a 56-feet frontage, and was in extent 28,000 square feet. At Wapping they proposed to put up three blocks of houses, which would accommodate sixty families, and the remainder in obedience to the demands of the neighbourhood. The contract had been entered into for the buildings at Southwark, which would involve an expenditure of 3,000*l.* The preliminary expenses of the society have been next to nothing, Mr. Alderman Waterlow, its founder, having provided a room gratuitously for office work, so that the only cost beyond that for building has been the salary of the secretary.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.—On Monday afternoon a deputation waited upon the Chevalier de Andrada, at the Brazilian Legation, Cavendish-square, to present an address from the committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, relating to the extinction of the slave-trade and slavery in Brazil. The deputation having been introduced by Mr. Chamerovzow, that gentleman, after a few preliminary remarks, read the address, which expressed a hope that the Emperor may be moved to apply himself seriously to a consideration of the subject of slavery in his dominions. The Chevalier de Andrada, in reply, stated that the sentiments of the address were shared by himself individually, and also, he believed he might say, would be by the Emperor of Brazil, who, with his Ministers and the leading men of the country, were looking anxiously at the question, and were most desirous of abolishing slavery; but they had to consider the most eligible means. The condition of the negro after he was emancipated had to be considered; for it was not sufficient that he should be freed—he must also work. The slave-trade was already abolished, and the abolition of slavery would follow. As an illustration of the progress of public opinion in that country in favour of emancipation, he referred to an oration recently delivered by the president of the Institute of Advocates at Rio de Janeiro, urging the members, as lawyers, and the Government, to consider the best means of immediately solving this most difficult question. Mr. Josiah Forster, the Rev. Dr. Massie, the Rev. W. Harris, Mr. John Cropper, Mr. Thomas Binns, and Mr. Robert Alsop, gave recent illustrations of the results of the abolition of slavery, especially in the Southern States of the American Union. The Rev. James Long bore testimony to the successful working of self emancipation in Russia. Mr. Chamerovzow stated that he had received recent information from Surinam to the effect that the freed negroes there were working to the satisfaction of their employers. The Chevalier de Andrada having assured the deputation that the address should be duly presented to the Emperor, the proceedings terminated.



## Gleanings.

An Irishman's repartee is generally like himself—*rot.*

ATTIANCE.—Waiting in a country shop, whilst they send out to get change for a sovereign.

SYDNEY SMITH ON RELIGIOUS TRAINING.—“An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy.”

What is the difference between a sailor and a soldier?—One tans his ropes, the other pitches his tent.

When Lord Erskine heard that somebody had died worth 200,000*l.*, he observed, “Well, that's a very pretty sum to begin the next world with.”

Tom Thumb retires on a quarter of a million. This is but a fair illustration of the strange freaks of fortune these topey-turvy times. It seems much easier to make a fortune by littleness than by greatness.—*American Paper.*

A sentimental fellow in Rhode Island intends to petition Congress for an appropriation to improve the channels of affection, so that henceforth the “courses of true love may run smooth.”—*American Paper.*

Government Inspector, examining a school not many miles from Canterbury. Question by Inspector: Who was David?—Boy: The son of Jesse, and King of Israel. Inspector: Who was Jesse?—Boy: The Flower of Dumblane.

Sir Robert Walpole was fond of playing at billiards, at which his friend, Dr. Monsey, excelled him. “How happens it, Monsey,” said Sir Robert, “that nobody beats me at billiards, or contradicts me, but you?” “The solution is easy,” answered Monsey; “I want neither places nor money from you; perhaps if I did, I should be as great a bungler at billiards as you are.”

A GREAT COMET PREDICTED.—The following is an extract of a letter just received from Melbourne:—“Professor Newmager, on a three years' scientific visit from Bavaria, tells us that in 1865 a comet shall come so close as to endanger this our earth; and should it not attach itself to us (as one globule of quicksilver to another), nor annihilate us, the sight will be most beautiful to behold. During three nights we shall have no darkness, but be bathed in the brilliant light of the blazing train!”

CLOSING OF PUBLIC HOUSES ON SUNDAYS.—The attention of the friends of the Sabbath is called to the forthcoming April number of the *British Workman* as being well adapted for circulation among publicans. It contains an article bearing on the above subject entitled, “The Sunday Ride and the Traveller's Rest” (with a large engraving after Herring), which if read by this class of our fellow-subjects, would, it is hoped, induce many of them to follow the example of the 1,400 publicans in Liverpool, who last year petitioned Parliament for the entire closing of Public-houses on Sunday. London: S. W. Partridge, 9, Paternoster Row, and all booksellers and newsagents. Price one penny, yearly vols. 1*s.* 6*d.* each.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—ENJOYMENT OF LIFE.—When the blood is pure, its circulation perfect, and the nerves in good order, we are well. These Pills possess a marvellous power in securing these great secrets of health, by purifying, regulating, and strengthening fluids and solids. Holloway's Pills can be confidently recommended to all persons suffering from disordered digestion or worried by nervous fancies or neuralgic pains. They correct acidity and heartburn, dispel sick headaches, quicken the action of the liver, and act as alternatives and gentle aperients. The weak and delicate may take them without fear. Holloway's Pills are eminently serviceable to invalids of irritable constitution, as they raise the action of every organ to its natural standard, and universally exercise a calming and sedative influence.

## Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

### BIRTHS.

WILLIAMS.—March 2, the wife of the Rev. B. Williams, Denbigh, of a daughter.  
BEALE.—March 11, at Portland, near Weymouth, Mrs. S. Beale, of a daughter.  
SHARMAN.—March 14, at Wellingborough, the wife of Mr. Rold Sharmar, of a daughter.  
ROWTON.—March 15, at Gloucester-place, Greenwich, Mrs. W. C. Rowton, of a son.  
CUNLIFFE.—March 16, at Leyton, the wife of Roger Cunliffe, Jun., of a daughter.  
MILLER.—March 20, at Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, the wife of the Rev. J. Miller, M.A., of a son.

### MARRIAGES.

JONES-ROSE.—Jan. 14 at the Congregational Church, Pitt-street, Sydney, by the Rev. W. Slatyer, a sister by the Rev. W. R. Fletcher, M.A., of Victoria. George Hall Jones, of Boonara, Queensland, son of David Jones, Esq., Sydney, to Alicia Maria, elder daughter of the late Capt. Geo. Burrows Rose, 69th Regiment.  
BACKHOUSE-SARGENTSON.—Feb. 24, at the Independent Chapel, Wortley, by the Rev. H. E. Wood, Henry, eldest son of the late Mr. Richard Backhouse, of Burley, to Miss Ann Sargentson, of Leeds.  
THOMAS-JONES.—March 8, at Salem Chapel, Liverpool, by the Rev. W. Rees, assisted by the Rev. B. Williams, Mr. Evan Thomas, Green, near Denbigh, to Mrs. Jones, Great Cross Hall-street, Liverpool.  
CLAPHAM-NAINBY.—March 10, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Thirsk, John P. Clapham, to Sarah Ann Nainby, both of Thirsk.  
BRUTON-OSSENS.—March 10, at the Independent Chapel, Wotton-under-Edge, by the Rev. G. S. Spencer, Mr. Thomas Bruton, to Miss Rhoda Ossens, both of Wotton-under-Edge.  
PRICE-RICHARDSON.—March 10, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Neath, Henry Habberley Price, Esq., of the Neath Abbey Ironworks, to Mary Eliza, second daughter of Joshua Richardson, Esq., C.K., F.G.S., Neath. No cards.  
JERRAM-UBBINS.—March 12, at the Wesleyan Chapel, Dorset-gardens, Brighton, by the Rev. Robert Peart, George Heastle Jerram, civil engineer, to Annie, daughter of John Dubbins, Esq., of No. 66, Regency square, Brighton.  
HARRIS-NAISH.—March 12, by licence, at Castle-green Chapel, Bristol, by the Rev. R. P. Macmaster, Mr. Robert C. Harris, to Mary Jane, eldest daughter of Mr. John Naish, of St. James's parade.  
ALLEN-ELLIOT.—March 14, at the Methodist New Connexion Chapel, Hunslet-road, Leeds, by the Rev. A. Phillips, Henry, son of Mr. Henry Allen, of Hunslet, to Rebecca, eldest daughter of Mr. Thos. Elliot, of the London and Brighton Railway.  
LATHAM-BOOTH.—March 14, at St. Paul's Chapel, Wigan, by the Rev. W. Roaf, Mr. John Latham, to Miss Elizabeth Booth, both of that town.  
TINSLEY-HATTLEBURY.—March 15, at St. Paul's Chapel, Wigan, by the Rev. J. Middleton, Mr. W. Tinsley, to Miss M. A. Hattlebury.

FOX-FOX.—March 15, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Tottenham, A. L. Fox, Esq., of Falmouth, to Mary Jane, daughter of the late F. Fox, Esq., of Tottenham.  
WOODROFFE-PALMER.—March 16, at the Baptist Chapel, Archdeacon-lane, Leicester, Mr. W. S. Woodroffe, of Northampton-upon-Soar, Nottinghamshire, to Elizabeth Ann, eldest daughter of the late W. F. Palmer, Esq., Island House, Loughborough.

### DEATHS.

STEPHENS.—March 5, at Croydon, Annie, the beloved wife of the Rev. Frederick Stephens, aged thirty-four years. For nearly nine years she endured great affliction and suffering with Christian fortitude and patience, and at last died in the full hope and triumph of the Gospel.  
STEPHENS.—March 6, at Uxbridge, of epilepsy, in the forty-seventh year of his age, the Rev. John Mortimer Stephens, late of Cirencester. His end was peace.  
PROVIS.—March 12, at Salisbury, Elizabeth, relict of the late John Provis, of Warminster, aged sixty-four years.  
EVANS.—March 12, at his residence, 6, Charlotte-street, Park-street, Bristol, Mr. Lavington Evans, aged seventy-eight, after a short illness.  
SARGEANT.—March 12, very suddenly, Thos. Sargeant, Esq., of Stonegate, Leicester, aged fifty-nine years.  
KENION.—March 13, at his residence, Spring-bank, Manningham-lane, Bradford, in his fifty-third year, very suddenly, Mr. Edward Kenion, woolstapler, alderman of the borough.  
BLISS.—March 21, aged six and a-half months, Edward, the infant son of the Rev. W. B. Bliss, Pembroke Dock.  
STURROCK.—March 21, at Hastings, the Rev. Chas. Smith Sturrock, B.A., formerly of Halifax, and late of Holly-walk Church, Leamington, aged thirty-five years.

## Markets.

### CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, March 21.

To this morning's market there was a small show of English wheat, and arrivals from abroad are moderate. The trade remained without activity, and of English wheat millers took only a portion of the supply at the rates of Monday last. For foreign wheat the value was steady, but the demand limited. The business doing in flour was small, and prices were unaltered. Peas and beans sold slowly at previous rates. Malt and barley was unaltered in value; other descriptions were difficult to place without some concession in price. Arrivals of oats are large, and the trade was depressed. Prime parcels supported the value of this day week, but inferior samples were 6*d.* lower. The few cargoes for orders on the coast are held at last week's prices.

### BUTCHERS' MEAT, ISLINGTON, Monday, March 21.

There was a fair average supply of foreign beasts and sheep on offer in our market to-day. Amongst it were 122 beasts from Spain. Sales progressed slowly, at depressed currencies. The arrivals of beasts fresh up this morning from our own grazing districts, as well as from Scotland, were on the increase, and most breeds came to hand in prime condition. The beef trade was in a very sluggish state, at a decline in the quotations, compared with Monday last, of 2*d.* per 8*lbs.* The top figure for Scots was 4*s.* 10*d.* per 8*lbs.*, and many very prime animals sold at 4*s.* 8*d.* per 8*lbs.* From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received 2,400 Scots, crosses, and shorthorns; from other parts of England, 700 various breeds; from Scotland, 315 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland, 120 oxen and heifers. There was an increased supply of sheep on offer, and in fair condition. The mutton trade was heavy; nevertheless, sheep in the wool realised last Monday's currency—the top figure for Downs being 6*s.* per 8*lbs.*, but breeds out of the wool gave 2*d.* per 8*lbs.*, the highest quotation being 4*s.* 10*d.* per 8*lbs.* Lambs—the supply of which was moderate and in steady request—realised 7*s.* 4*d.* per 8*lbs.* A few very superior Down lambs realised 8*s.* per 8*lbs.* The veal trade was inactive, yet previous rates were well supported. The quotations were 4*s.* 4*d.* to 5*s.* 4*d.* per 8*lbs.* We have to report a slow inquiry for pigs, at previous rates.

### Per 8*lbs.* to sink the Offal.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3	4	3	8	Prime Southdown	5	10	6	0
Second quality	3	10	4	2	Lambs	6	8	7	4
Prime large oxen	4	4	6		Lgs. coarse calves	4	4	5	0
Prime Scots, &c.	4	8	4	10	Prime small	5	5	5	4
Coarse inf. sheep	3	8	4	2	Large hogs	3	6	4	0
Second quality	4	4	5	2	Neat sm. porkers	4	2	4	6
Pr. coarse wooled	4	4	5	8					
Smoking calves	16	s.	to 22 <i>s.</i>		Quarter-old store pigs	20	s.	to 26	s.

### NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, March 21.

These markets continue to be moderately supplied with town and country-killed meat. Generally speaking, however, the trade is firm, and prices are somewhat higher than on Monday last.

### Per 8*lbs.* by the carcase.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior beef	2	10	3	2	Small pork	4	2	4	6
Middling ditto	3	4	3	8	Inf. mutton	3	8	3	10
Prime large do	3	10	4	0	Middling ditto	4	0	4	2
Do. small do.	4	0	4	2	Prime ditto	4	4	4	6
Large pork	3	2	3	10	Veal	3	8	4	8

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 6*d.* to 7*d.*; household ditto, 5*d.* to 6*d.*

### PRODUCE MARKET, TUESDAY, March 22.

TEA.—There has been a moderate amount of business transacted for good and fine descriptions of congou at fully former rates.

SUGAR.—The market has exhibited very little animation, and prices have not varied to any important extent.

COFFEE.—The dealings have been moderate in both plantation and native Ceylon, and full rates have been obtained for good and superior descriptions.

RICE.—There has been a fair inquiry for East India, but the high rates demanded by holders has in some measure checked operations.

PROVISIONS, Monday, March 21.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 219 Irish butter, and 2,193 bales of bacon; and from foreign ports 9,632 casks butter, and 953 bales and 565 boxes of bacon. In the Irish butter market last week there was little change to notice; the stock is gradually working off, at various prices, according to quality, &c. Best Dutch rallied to 12*s.* The bacon market ruled very firm, and a good business was transacted, at an advance of 2*s.* per cwt. Sales of best Waterford meat made 6*s.* on board, for shipment.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, March 21.—The fresh arrivals of home-grown potatoes to these markets continue in large supply. Good and fine qualities command a tolerably steady sale, at about previous prices; but the trade generally is dull. The currency is as follows:—Kent and Essex Regents 6*s.* to 8*s.*, Yorkshire Regents 4*s.* to 7*s.*, ditto Flukes 4*s.* to 4*s.*, ditto Rocks 4*s.* to 5*s.*, Perth, Forfar, and Fifeshire Regents 4*s.* to 7*s.*, ditto Rocks 4*s.* to 5*s.*, Seedlings 5*s.* to 6*s.* per ton.

WOOL, Monday, March 21.—Since our last report there has been an increased amount of business doing in all kinds of English wool, both for home use and export, and prices have ruled the turn against buyers. The public sales of colonial wool are progressing steadily, at slightly enhanced rates.

FLAX, HEMP, COIR, &c., Saturday, March 19.—We have to report an average trade for flax, and prices rule firm. Hemp moves off slowly; nevertheless, clean Russian qualities command 37*l.* to 40*l.* 10*s.* per ton. Jute commands more attention, and prices rule firm. Coir goods move off steadily, no change having taken place in the prices.

TALLOW, Monday, March 21.—The tallow trade is quiet to-day, and P.Y.C. is quoted at 42*s.* per cwt. on the spot. Town tallow realises 41*s.* 3*d.* net cash. Rough fat has advanced to 2*s.* 2*d.* per 8*lbs.*

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